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THE
SEASONS,

BY
JAMES THOMSON.

A NEW EDITION.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

A N E S S A Y

ON THE

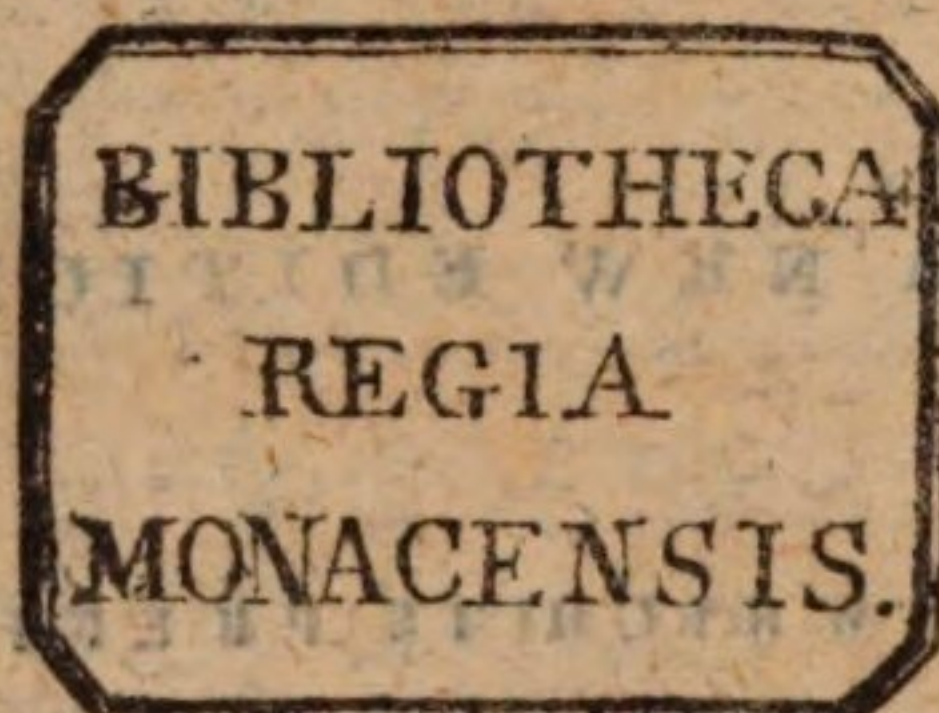
PLAN AND CHARACTER OF THE POEM,

BY J. AIKIN.

LEIPZIG

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MDCCLXXXI.



AN
ESSAY
ON THE
PLAN AND CHARACTER

OF
THOMSON'S SEASONS.

WHEN a work of art to masterly execution adds novelty of design, it demands not only a cursory admiration, but such a mature enquiry into the principles upon which it has been formed, as may determine how far it deserves to be received as a model for future attempts in the same walk. Originals are always rare productions. The performances of artists in general, even of those who stand high in their respective classes, are only imitations; which have more or less merit, in proportion to the degree of skill and judgment with which they copy originals more or less excellent. A good original,

therefore, forms an æra in the art itself; and the history of every art divides itself into periods comprehending the intervals between the appearance of different approved originals. Sometimes, indeed, various models of a very different cast may exercise the talents of imitators during a single period; and this will more frequently be the case, as arts become more generally known and studied; difference of taste being always the result of liberal and varied pursuit.

How strongly these periods are marked in the history of Poetry, both antient and modern, a cursory view will suffice to shew. The scarcity of originals here is universally acknowledged and lamented, and the present race of poets are thought particularly chargeable with this defect. It ought, however, to be allowed in their favour, that if genius has declined, taste has improved; and that if they imitate more, they choose better models to copy after.

THAT THOMSON'S SEASONS in the original whence our modern descriptive poets have derived that more elegant and correct style of painting natural objects which distinguishes them from their immediate predecessors, will, I think, appear evident to one who examines their several casts and manners. That none of them, however, have yet equalled their master; and that his performance is an exquisite piece, replete with beauties of the most engaging and delightful kind;

THOMSON'S SEASONS. ▼

will be sensibly felt by all of congenial taste:— and perhaps no poem was ever composed which addressed itself to the feelings of a greater number of readers. It is, therefore, on every account an object well worthy the attention of criticism; and an enquiry into the peculiar nature of its plan and the manner of its execution may be an agreeable introduction to a re-perusal of it in the elegant edition now offered to the public.

THE description of such natural objects as by their beauty, grandeur, or novelty agreeably impress the imagination, has at all times been a principal and favourite occupation of Poetry. Various have been the methods in which such descriptions have been introduced. They have been made subservient to the purposes of ornament and illustration, in the more elevated and abstracted kinds of Poetry, by being used as objects of similitude. They have constituted a pleasing and necessary part of epic narration, when employed in forming a scenery suitable to the events. The simple tale of pastoral life could scarcely without their aid be rendered in any degree interesting. The precepts of an art, and the systems of philosophers, depend upon the adventitious ornaments afforded by them for almost every thing which can render them fit subjects for poetry.

THUS intermixed as they are with almost all, and assential to some species of poetry, it was, however, thought that they could not legitima-

tely constitute the whole, or even the principal part, of a capital piece. Something of a more solid nature was required as the ground-work of a poetical fabric; *pure description* was opposed to *sense*; and binding together the wild flowers which grew obvious to common sight and touch, was deemed a trifling and unprofitable amusement.

SUCH was the state of critical opinion, when Thomson published, in succession, but not in their present order, * the pieces which compose his *Seasons*; the first capital work in which natural description was professedly the principal object. To paint the face of nature as changing through the changing seasons; to mark the approaches, and trace the progress of these vicissitudes, in a series of landscips all formed upon images of grandeur or beauty; and to give animation and variety to the whole by interspersing manners and incidents suitable to the scenery; appears to be the general design of this Poem. Essentially different from a didactic piece, its *business* is to describe, and the occupation of its *leisure* to teach. And as in the *Georgics*, whenever the poet has, for a while, borne away by the warmth of fancy, wandered through the flowery wilds of description, he suddenly checks himself, and returns to the toils of the husbandman; so Thomson, in the midst of his delightful lessons of morality,

* They appeared in the following order; *Winter, Summer, Spring, Autumn.*

and affecting relations, recurs to a view of that state of the season which introduced the digression.

It is an attention to this leading idea, that in this piece there is a progressive series of descriptions, all tending to a certain point, and all parts of a general plan, which alone can enable us to range through the vast variety and quick succession of objects presented in it, with any clear conception of the writer's method, or true judgment concerning what may be regarded as forwarding his main purpose, or a merely ornamental deviation. The particular elucidation of this point will constitute the principal part of the present Essay.

ALTHOUGH each of the *Seasons* appears to have been intended as a complete piece, and contains within itself the natural order of beginning, middle, and termination, yet, as they were at length collected and modelled by their author, they have all a mutual relation to each other, and concur in forming a more comprehensive whole. The annual space in which the earth performs its revolution round the sun is so strongly marked by nature for a perfect period, that all mankind have agreed in forming their computations of time upon it. In all the temperate climates of the globe, the four seasons are so many progressive stages in this circuit, which, like the acts in a well-constructed drama, gradually disclose, ripen, and

bring to an end the various business transacted on the great theatre of nature. The striking analogy which this period with its several divisions bears to the course of human existence, has been remarked and pursued by writers of all ages and countries. Spring has been represented as the youth of the year—the season of pleasing hope, lively energy, and rapid increase. Summer has been resembled to perfect manhood—the season of steady warmth, confirmed strength, and unremitting vigour. Autumn, which, while it bestows the rich products of full maturity, is yet ever hastening to decline, has been aptly compared to that period, when the man, mellowed by age, yields the most valuable fruits of experience and wisdom, but daily exhibits increasing symptoms of decay. The cold, cheerless, and sluggish Winter has almost without a metaphor been termed the decrepit and hoary old age of the year. Thus the history of the year, pursued through its changing seasons, is that of an individual, whose existence is marked by a progressive course from its origin to its termination. It is thus represented by our Poet; this idea preserves an unity and connexion through his whole work; and the accurate observer will remark a beautiful chain of circumstances in his description, by which the birth, vigour, decline, and extinction of the vital principle of the year are pictured in the most lively manner.

THIS order and gradation of the whole runs,

as has been already hinted, through each division of the poem. Every season has its incipient, confirmed, and receding state, of which its historian ought to give distinct views, arranged according to the succession in which they appear. Each too, like the prismatic colours, is indistinguishably blended in its origin and termination with that which precedes, and which follows it; and it may be expected from the pencil of an artist to hit off these mingled shades so as to produce a pleasing and picturesque effect. Our Poet has not been inattentive to these circumstances in the conduct of his plan. His *Spring* begins with a view of the season as yet unconfirmed, and partaking of the roughness of Winter; * and it is not till after several steps in gradual progression, that it breaks forth in all its ornaments, as the favourite of Love and Pleasure. His *Autumn*, after a rich prospect of its bounties and splendours, gently fades into "the fere, the yellow leaf," and with the lengthened night, the clouded sun, and the rising storm, sinks into the arms of Winter. It is remarkable, that in order to produce something of a similar effect in his *Summer*, a season which, on account of its uniformity of character, does not admit of any strongly-marked gradations, he has comprized the whole of his description within the limits of a single day, pursuing the course of

* A descriptive piece, in which this very interval of time is represented, with all the accuracy of a naturalist, and vivid colouring of a poet, has lately appeared in a poem of Mr. Warton's, entitled *The first of April*.

the sun from its rising to its setting. A Summer's day is, in reality, a just model of the entire season. Its beginning is moist and temperate; its middle, sultry and parching; its close, soft and refreshing. By thus exhibiting all the vicissitudes of Summer under one point of view, they are rendered much more striking than could have been done in a series of feebly contrasted and scarcely distinguishable periods.

WITH this idea of the general plan of the whole work, and of its several parts, we proceed to take a view of the various subjects composing the descriptive series of which it principally consists.

EVERY grand and beautiful appearance in nature, that distinguishes one portion of the annual circuit from another, is a proper source of materials for the *Poet of the Seasons*. Of these, some are obvious to the common observer, and require only justness and elegance of taste for the selection: others discover themselves only to the mind opened and enlarged by science and philosophy. All the knowledge we acquire concerning natural objects by such a train of observation and reasoning as merits the appellation of science, is comprehended under the two divisions of *natural philosophy* and *natural history*. Both of these may be employed to advantage in descriptive poetry: for although it be true, that poetical composition, being rather calculated for amusement than in-

struction, and addressing itself to the many who feel, rather than to the few who reason, is improperly occupied about the abstruse and argumentative parts of a science; yet, to reject those grand and beautiful ideas which a philosophical view of nature offers to the mind, merely because they are above the comprehension of vulgar readers, is surely an unnecessary degradation of this noble art. Still more narrow and unreasonable is that critical precept, which, in conformity to the received notion that fiction is the soul of poetry, obliges the poet to adopt antient errors in preference to modern truths; and this even where truth has the advantage in point of poetical effect. In fact, modern philosophy is as much superior to the antient in sublimity as in solidity; and the most vivid imagination cannot paint to itself scenes of grandeur equal to those which cool science and demonstration offer to the enlightened mind. Objects so vast and magnificent as planets rolling with even pace through their orbits, comets rushing along their devious track, light springing from its unexhausted source, mighty rivers formed in their subterranean beds, do not require, or even admit, a heightening from the fancy. The most faithful pencil here produces the noblest pictures; and Thomson, by strictly adhering to the character of the *poet of nature*, has treated all these topics with a true sublimity, which a writer of less knowledge and accuracy could never have attained. The strict propriety with which subjects from Astronomy and the other parts of Natural

Philosophy are introduced into a poem describing the changes of the Seasons, need not be insisted on, since it is obvious that the primary cause of all these changes is to be sought in principles derived from these sciences. They are the groundwork of the whole; and establish that connected series of cause and effect, upon which all those appearances in nature depend, from whence the descriptive poet draws his materials.

NATURAL HISTORY, in its most extensive signification, includes every observation relative to the distinctions, resemblances, and changes of all the bodies, both animate and inanimate, which nature offers to us. These observations, however, deserve to be considered as part of a science only when they refer to some general truth, and form a link of that vast chain which connects all created being in one grand system. It was my attempt in an Essay lately published, * to shew how necessary a more accurate and scientific survey of natural objects than has usually been taken, was to the avoiding the common defects, and attaining the highest beauties of descriptive poetry; and some of the most striking examples of excellence arising from this source were extracted from the poem now before us. It will be unnecessary here to recapitulate the substance of these remarks, or to mark out singly the several passages of our author which display his talents for description to the greatest advantage. Our present design rather

* Essay on the Application of Natural History to Poetry.

requires such a general view of the materials he has collected, and the method in which he has arranged them, as may shew in what degree they forward and coincide with the plan of his work.

THE correspondence between certain changes in the animal and vegetable tribes, and those revolutions of the heavenly bodies which produce the vicissitudes of the Seasons, is the foundation of an alliance between Astronomy and Natural History, that equally demands attention as a matter of curious speculation, and of practical utility. The astronomical calendar, filled up by the Naturalist, is a combination of science at the same time pregnant with important instruction to the husbandman, and fertile in grand and pleasing objects to the poet and philosopher. Thomson seems constantly to have kept in view a combination of this kind; and to have formed from it such an idea of the *œconomy of nature*, as enabled him to preserve a regularity of method and uniformity of design through all the variety of his descriptions. We shall attempt to draw out a kind of historical narrative of his progress through the Seasons, as far as this order is observable.

SPRING is characterized as the season of the renovation of nature; in which animals and vegetables, excited by the kindly influence of returning warmth, shake off the torpid inaction of Winter, and prepare for the continuance and increase

of their several species. The vegetable tribes, as more independent and self-provided, lead the way in this progress. The poet, accordingly, begins with representing the reviviscent plants emerging, as soon as genial showers have softened the ground, in numbers "beyond the power of botanist to reckon up their tribes." The opening blossoms and flowers soon call forth from their winter retreats those industrious insects which derive sustenance from their nectareous juices. As the beams of the sun become more potent, the larger vegetables, shrubs and trees, unfold their leaves; and as soon as a friendly concealment is by their means provided for the various nations of the feathered race, they joyfully begin the course of laborious, but pleasing occupations, which are to engage them during the whole season. The delightful series of pictures, so truly expressive of that genial spirit that pervades the Spring, which Thomson has formed on the variety of circumstances attending the *passion of the groves*, cannot escape the notice and admiration of the most negligent eye. Affected by the same soft influence, and equally indebted to the renewed vegetable tribes for food and shelter, the several kinds of quadrupeds are represented as concurring in the celebration of this charming Season with conjugal and parental rites. Even Man himself, though from his social condition less under the dominion of physical necessities, is properly described as partaking of the general ardour. Such is the order and connexion of this whole book, that it might

well pass for a commentary upon a most beautiful passage in the philosophical poet Lucretius; who certainly wanted nothing but a better system and more circumscribed subject, to have appeared as one of the greatest masters of description in either antient or modern poetry. Reasoning on the unperishable nature, and perpetual circulation, of the particles of matter, he deduces all the delightful appearances of Spring from the seeds of fertility which descend in the vernal showers.

————— pereunt imbres, ubi eos pater Æther
 In gremium matris Terræ precipitavit.
 At nitidæ surgunt fruges, ramique virescunt
 Arboribus; crescunt ipsæ, sætæque gravantur;
 Hinc alitur porro nostrum genus atque ferarum:
 Hinc lætas urbeis pueris florere videmus,
 Frondiferaeque novis avibus canere undique sylvas.
 Hinc fessæ pecudes pingues per pabula læta
 Corpora deponunt, & candens lacteus humor
 Uberibus manat distentis; hinc nova proles
 Artubus infirmis teneras lasciva per herbas
 Ludit, lacte mero menteis percussa novellas.

Lib. I. 151, &c.

The rains are lost, when Jove descends in showers
 Soft on the bosom of the parent earth;
 But springs the shining grain; their verdant robe
 The trees resume, they grow, and pregnant bend
 Beneath their fertile load: hence kindly food
 The living tribes receive; the cheerful town
 Beholds its joyous bands of flowering youth;
 With new-born songs the leafy groves resound;
 The full-fed flocks amid the laughing meads
 Their weary bodies lay, while wide-distent
 The plenteous udder teems with milky juice;

And o'er the grafs, as their young hearts beat high,
Swell'd by the pure and generous streams they drain,
Frolic the wanton lambs with joints infirm.

THE period of SUMMER is marked by fewer and less striking changes in the face of Nature. A soft and pleasing languor, interrupted only by the gradual progression of the vegetable and animal tribes towards their state of maturity, forms the leading character of this Season. The active fermentation of the juices, which the first access of genial warmth had excited, now subsides; and the increasing heats rather inspire faintness and inaction than lively exertions. The insect race alone seem animated with peculiar vigour under the more direct influence of the sun; and are therefore with equal truth and advantage introduced by the Poet to enliven the silent and drooping scenes presented by the other forms of animal nature. As this source, however, together with whatever else our summers afford, is insufficient to furnish novelty and business enough for this act of the drama of the year, the Poet judiciously opens a new field, profusely fertile in objects suited to the glowing colours of descriptive poetry. By an easy and natural transition, he quits the chastized summer of our temperate clime for those regions where a perpetual summer reigns, exalted by such superior degrees of solar heat as give an entirely new face to almost every part of nature. The terrific grandeur prevalent in some of these, the exquisite richness and beauty in others, and the novelty in all, afford such a happy

variety for the poet's selection, that we need not wonder if some of his noblest pieces are the product of this delightful excursion. He returns, however, with apparent satisfaction to take a last survey of the softer summer of our island; and after closing the prospect of terrestrial beauties, artfully shifts the scene to celestial splendors, which, though perhaps not more striking in this season than in some of the others, are now alone agreeable objects of contemplation in a northern climate.

AUTUMN is too eventful a period in the history of the year within the temperate parts of the globe, to require foreign aid for rendering it more varied and interesting. The promise of the Spring is now fulfilled. The silent and gradual process of maturation is completed; and Human Industry beholds with triumph the rich products of its toil. The vegetable tribes disclose their infinitely various forms of *fruit*; which term, while, with respect to common use it is confined to a few peculiar modes of fructification, in the more comprehensive language of the Naturalist includes every product of vegetation by which the rudiments of a future progeny are developed, and separated from the parent plant. These are in part collected and stored up by those animals for whose sustenance during the ensuing sleep of nature they are provided. The rest, furnished with various contrivances for dissemination, are scattered, by the friendly winds which now be-

gin to blow, over the surface of that earth which they are to clothe and decorate. The young of the animal race, which Spring and Summer had brought forth and cherished, having now acquired sufficient vigour, quit their concealments, and offer themselves to the pursuit of the carnivorous among their fellow-animals, and of the great destroyer man. Thus the scenery is enlivened with the various sports of the hunter; which, however repugnant they may appear to that system of general benevolence and sympathy which philosophy would inculcate, have ever afforded a most agreeable exertion to the human powers, and have much to plead in their favour as a necessary part of the great plan of Nature. Indeed, she marks her intention with sufficient precision, by refusing to grant any longer those friendly shades which had grown for the protection of the infant offspring. The grove loses its honours; but before they are entirely tarnished, an adventitious beauty, arising from that gradual decay which loosens the withering leaf, gilds the autumnal landscape with a temporary splendour, superior to the verdure of Spring, or the luxuriance of Summer. The infinitely various and ever-changing hues of the leaves at this season, melting into every soft gradation of tint and shade, have long engaged the imitation of the painter, and are equally happy ornaments in the description of the poet.

THESE unvarying symptoms of approaching

Winter now warn several of the winged tribes to prepare for their aerial voyage to those happy climates of perpetual summer, where no deficiency of food or shelter can ever distress them; and about the same time, other fowls of hardier constitution, which are contented with escaping the iron winters of the arctic regions, arrive to supply the vacancy. Thus the striking scenes afforded by that wonderful part of the œconomy of Nature, the migration of birds, present themselves at this season to the poet. The thickening fogs, the heavy rains, the swollen rivers, while they deform this sinking period of the year, add new subjects to the pleasing variety which reigns throughout its whole course, and which justifies the Poet's character of it, as the season when the Muse "best exerts her voice."

WINTER, directly opposite as it is in other respects to Summer, yet resembles it in this, that it is a Season in which Nature is employed rather in secretly preparing for the mighty changes which it successively brings to light, than in the actual exhibition of them. It is therefore a period equally barren of events; and has still less of animation than Summer, inasmuch as lethargic insensibility is a state more distant from vital energy than the languor of indolent repose. From the fall of the leaf, and withering of the herb, an unvarying death-like torpor oppresses almost the whole vegetable creation, and a considerable part of the animal, during this entire portion of the

year. The whole insect race, which filled every part of the Summer landskip with life and motion, are now either buried in profound sleep, or actually no longer exist, except in the unformed rudiments of a future progeny. Many of the birds and quadrupeds are retired to concealments, from which not even the calls of hunger can force them; and the rest, intent only on the preservation of a joyless being, have ceased to exert those powers of pleasing, which, at other seasons, so much contribute to their mutual happiness, as well as to the amusement of their human sovereign. Their social connexions, however, are improved by their wants. In order the better to procure their scanty subsistence, and resist the inclemencies of the sky, they are taught by instinct to assemble in flocks; and this provision has the secondary effect of gratifying the spectator with something of novelty and action even in the dreariness of a wintry prospect.

BUT it is in the extraordinary changes and agitations which the elements, and the surrounding atmosphere undergo during this season, that the poet of nature must principally look for relief from the gloomy uniformity reigning through other parts of the creation. Here scenes are presented to his view, which, were they less frequent, must strike with wonder and admiration the most incurious spectator. The effects of cold are more sudden, and in many instances more extraordinary and unexpected than those of heat.

He who has beheld the vegetable productions of even a northern Summer, will not be greatly amazed at the richer and more luxuriant, but still resembling, growths of the tropics. But one who has always been accustomed to view water in a liquid and colourless state, cannot form the least conception of the same element as hardened into an extensive plain of solid chrystal, or covering the ground with a robe of the purest white. The highest possible degree of astonishment must therefore attend the first view of these phenomena; and as in our temperate climate but a small portion of the year affords these spectacles, we find that, even here, they have novelty enough to excite emotions of agreeable surprize. But it is not to novelty alone that they owe their charms. Their intrinsic beauty is, perhaps, individually superior to that of the gayest objects presented by the other seasons. Where is the elegance and brilliancy that can compare with that which decorates every tree or bush on the clear morning succeeding a night of hoar frost? or what is the lustre that would not appear dull and tarnished in competition with a field of snow just glazed over with frost? By the vivid description of such objects as these, contrasted with the savage sublimity of storms and tempests, our Poet has been able to produce a set of winter landskips, as engaging to the fancy as the apparently happier scenes of genial warmth and verdure.

BUT he has not trusted entirely to these re-

sources for combating the natural sterility of Winter. Repeating the pleasing artifice of his *Summer*, he has called in foreign aid, and has heightened the scenery with grandeur and horror not our own. The famished troops of wolves pouring from the Alps; the mountains of snow rolling down the precipices of the same regions; the dreary plains over which the Laplander urges his rein deer; the wonders of the icy sea, and volcanoes "flaming thro' a waste of snow;" are objects judiciously selected from all that Nature presents most singular and striking in the various domains of boreal cold and wintry desolation.

Thus have we attempted to give a general view of those materials which constitute the ground-work of a poem on the Seasons; which are essential to its very nature; and on the proper arrangement of which its regularity and connexion depend. The extent of knowledge, as well as the powers of description, which Thomson has exhibited in this part of his work, is, on the whole, truly admirable; and though, with the present advanced taste for accurate observation in natural history, some improvements might be suggested, yet he certainly remains unrivalled in the list of descriptive poets.

BUT the rural landscape is not solely made up of land, and water, and trees, and birds, and beasts; *man* is a distinguished figure in it; his multiplied occupations and concerns introduce

themselves into every part of it; he intermixes even in the wildest and rudest scenes, and throws a life and interest upon every surrounding object. *Manners* and *character* therefore constitute a part even of a descriptive poem; and in a plan so extensive as the history of the year, they must enter under various forms, and upon numerous occasions.

THE most obvious and appropriated use of human figures in pictures of the Seasons, is the introduction of them to assist in marking out the succession of annual changes by their various labours and amusements. In common with other animals, man is directed in the diversified employment of earning a toilsome subsistence by an attention to the vicissitudes of the seasons; and all his diversions in the simple state of rustic society are also regulated by the same circumstance. Thus a series of moving figures enlivens the landscape, and contributes to stamp on each scene its peculiar character. The shepherd, the husbandman, the hunter, appear in their turns; and may be considered as natural concomitants of that portion of the yearly round which prompts their several occupations.

BUT it is not only the bodily pursuits of man which are affected by these changes; the sensations and affections of his mind are almost equally under their influence: and the result of the whole, as forming the enamoured votary of Na-

ture to a peculiar cast of character and manners, is not less conspicuous. Thus the Poet of the Seasons is at liberty, without deviating from his plan, to descant on the varieties of moral constitution, and the powers which external causes are found to possess over the temper of the soul. He may draw pictures of the pastoral life in all its genuine simplicity; and assuming the tone of a moral instructor, may contrast the peace and felicity of innocent retirement, with the turbulent agitations of ambition and avarice.

The various incidents too, upon which the simple tale of rural events is founded, are very much modeled by the difference of seasons. The catastrophes of Winter differ from those of Summer; the sports of Spring from those of Autumn. Thus, little history pieces and adventures, whether pathetic or amusing, will suggest themselves to the Poet; which, when properly adapted to the scenery and circumstances, may very happily coincide with the main design of the composition.

The bare enumeration of these several occasions of introducing draughts of human life and manners, will be sufficient to call to mind the admirable use which Thomson throughout his whole poem has made of them. He, in fact, never appears more truly inspired with his subject, than when giving birth to those sentiments of tenderness and beneficence, which seem to

have occupied his whole heart. An universal benevolence, extending to every part of the animal creation, manifests itself in almost every scene he draws; and the rural character, as delineated in his feelings, contains all the softness, purity, and simplicity that are feigned of the golden age. Yet, excellent as the moral and sentimental part of his work must appear to every congenial mind, it is, perhaps, that in which he may the most easily be rivalled. A refined and feeling heart may derive from its own proper sources a store of corresponding sentiment, which will naturally clothe itself in the form of expression best suited to the occasion. Nor does the invention of those simple incidents which are most adapted to excite the sympathetic emotions, require any great stretch of fancy. The nearer they approach to common life, the more certainly will they produce their effect. Wonder and surprize are affections of so different a kind, and so distract the attention, that they never fail to diminish the force of the pathetic. On these accounts, writers much inferior in respect to the powers of description and imagery, have equalled our Poet in elegant and benevolent sentiment, and perhaps excelled him in interesting narration. Of these, it will be sufficient to mention the ingenious author of a French poem on the Seasons; who, though a mere copyist in the descriptive parts, has made many pleasing additions to the manners and incidents proper for such a composition.

BUT there is a strain of sentiment of a higher and more digressive nature, with which Thomson has occupied a considerable portion of his poem. The fundamental principles of Moral Philosophy, ideas concerning the origin and progress of government and civilization, historical sketches, and reviews of the characters most famous in antient and modern history, are interspersed through the various parts of the Seasons. The manly, liberal, and enlightened spirit which this writer breathes in all his works, must ever endear him to the friends of truth and virtue; and, in particular, his genuine patriotism and zeal in the cause of liberty will render his writings always estimable to the British reader. But, just and important as his thoughts on these topics may be, there may remain a doubt in the breast of the critic, whether their introduction in a piece like this do not, in some instances, break in upon that unity of character which every work of art should support. We have seen, from the general plan and tenor of the poem, that it is professedly of the rural cast. The objects it is chiefly conversant with are those presented by the hand of nature, not the products of human art; and when man himself is introduced as a part of the groupe, it would seem that, in conformity to the rest, he ought to be represented in such a state only, as the simplest forms of society, and most unconstrained situations in it, exhibit. Courts and cities, camps and senates, do not well accord with sylvan scenery. From the principle of con-

gruity, therefore, a critic might be induced to reject some of these digressive ornaments, though intrinsically beautiful, and doubtless contributing to the elevation and variety of the piece. His judgment in this respect would be a good deal influenced by the manner of their introduction. In some instances this is so easy and natural, that the mind is scarcely sensible of the deviation; in others it is more abrupt and unartful. As examples of both, we may refer to the passages in which various characters from English, and from Grecian and Roman history, are displayed. The former, by a happy gradation, is introduced at the close of a delightful piece, containing the praises of Britain; which is itself a kind of digression, though a very apt and seasonable one. The latter has no other connexion with the part at which it is inserted, than the very forced and distant one, that, as reading may be reckoned among the amusements appropriated to Winter, such subjects as these will naturally offer themselves to the studious mind.

THERE is another source of sentiment to the Poet of the Seasons, which, while it is superior to the last in real elevation, is also strictly connected with the nature of his work. The genuine philosopher, while he surveys the grand and beautiful objects every where surrounding him, will be prompted to lift his eye to the great cause of all these wonders; the planner and architect of this mighty fabric, every minute part

of which so much awakens his curiosity and admiration. The laws by which this being acts, the ends which he seems to have pursued, must excite his humble researches; and in proportion as he discovers infinite power in the means, directed by infinite goodness in the intention, his soul must be wrapt in astonishment, and expanded with gratitude. The *æconomy of Nature* will, to such an observer, be the perfect scheme of an all-wise and beneficent mind; and every part of the wide creation will appear to proclaim the praise of its great author. Thus a new connexion will manifest itself between the several parts of the universe; and a new order and design will be traced through the progress of its various revolutions.

THOMSON'S SEASONS is as eminently a religious, as it is a descriptive poem. Thoroughly impressed with sentiments of veneration for the author of that assemblage of order and beauty which it was his province to paint, he takes every proper occasion to excite similar emotions in the breasts of his readers. Entirely free from the gloom of superstition and the narrowness of bigotry, he every where represents the Deity as the kind and beneficent parent of all his works, always watchful over their best interests, and from seeming evil still educating the greatest possible good to all his creatures. In every appearance of nature he beholds the operation of a divine hand; and regards, according to his own emphatical

phrase, each change throughout the revolving year as but the "varied God." This spirit, which breaks forth at intervals in each division of his poem, shines full and concentrated in that noble *hymn* which crowns the work. This piece, the sublimest production of its kind since the days of Milton, should be considered as the winding up of all the variety of matter and design contained in the preceding parts; and thus is not only admirable as a separate composition, but is contrived with masterly skill to strengthen the unity and connexion of the GREAT WHOLE.

Thus is planned and constructed a Poem, which, founded as it is upon the unfading beauties of Nature, will live as long as the language in which it is written shall be read. If the perusal of it be in any respect rendered more interesting or instructive by this imperfect Essay, the purpose of the writer will be fully answered.

plants, which change their colour in the revolving
 year, and the various kinds of flowers, which
 bloom forth in numbers in each season of the
 year, I have not only collected in this noble
 herbarium, but also in the work. This piece, the
 foundation of the production of the seasons, and the
 various plants, which are the result of the
 of the various seasons, and the result of the
 in the preceding part, and thus is the only
 method of a complete description of the
 of the various seasons, and the result of the
 and continuation of the present work.
 Thus is planned and concluded a Poem,
 which, founded as it is upon the unchanging prin-
 ciples of Nature, will live as long as the language
 in which it is written shall be read. If the
 list of the many rejected names, remaining
 of interest by the name of the Poem, the purpose
 of the work will be fully answered.

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S P R I N G.

The ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Inscribed to the Countess of HARTFORD. . . The Season is described as it affects the various parts of Nature, ascending from the lower to the higher; with digressions arising from the subject. Its influence on inanimate Matter, on Vegetables, on brute Animals, and last on Man; concluding with a dissuasive from the wild and irregular passion of Love, opposed to that of a pure and happy kind.

S P R I N G.

COME, gentle SPRING, ethereal Mildness, come,
And from the bosom of yon dropping cloud,
While music wakes around, veil'd in a shower
Of shadowing roses, on our plains descend.

O HARTFORD, fitted or to shine in courts 5
With unaffected grace, or walk the plain
With innocence and meditation join'd
In soft assemblage, listen to my song,
Which thy own Season paints; when Nature all
Is blooming and benevolent, like thee. 10

AND see where surly WINTER passes of,
Far to the north, and calls his ruffian blasts:
His blasts obey, and quit the howling hill,
'The shattered forest, and the ravag'd vale;
While softer gales succeed, at whose kind touch, 15
Dissolving snows in livid torrents lost,
The mountains lift their green heads to the sky.

As yet the trembling year is unconfirm'd,
And WINTER oft at eve resumes the breeze,
Chills the pale morn, and bids his driving fleets 20
Deform the day delightless; so that scarce
The bittern knows his time, with bill ingulph'd
To shake the sounding marsh; or from the shore

The plovers when to scatter o'er the heath,
And sing their wild notes to the listening waste. 25

AT last from *Aries* rolls the bounteous sun,
And the bright *Bull* receives him. Then no more
Th' expansive atmosphere is cramp'd with cold;
But, full of life and vivifying soul,
Lifts the light clouds sublime, and spreads them thin, 30
Fleecy and white, o'er all-surrounding heaven.

FORTH fly the tepid airs; and unconfin'd,
Unbinding earth, the moving softness strays.
Joyous, th' impatient husbandman perceives
Relenting Nature, and his lusty steers 35
Drives from their stalls, to where the well-us'd plough
Lies in the furrow, loosened from the frost.
There, unrefusing, to the harness'd yoke
They lend their shoulder, and begin their toil,
Cheer'd by the simple song and soaring lark. 40
Meanwhile incumbent o'er the shining share
The master leans, removes th' obstructing clay,
Winds the whole work, and sidelong lays the glebe.

WHITE thro' the neighbouring fields the sower stalks,
With measur'd step; and liberal throws the grain 45
Into the faithful bosom of the ground:
The harrow follows harsh, and shuts the scene.

BE gracious, HEAVEN! for now laborious Man
Has done his part. Ye fostering breezes, blow!

Ye softening dews, ye tender showers, descend! 50
 And temper all, thou world-reviving sun,
 Into the perfect year! Nor ye who live
 In luxury and ease, in pomp and pride,
 Think these lost themes unworthy of your ear:
 Such themes as these the *rural* MARO sung 55
 To wide-imperial ROME, in the full height
 Of elegance and taste, by GREECE refin'd.
 In ancient times, the sacred plough employ'd
 The kings, and awful fathers of mankind:
 And some, with whom compar'd your insect-tribes 60
 Are but the beings of a summer's day,
 Have held the scale of empire, rul'd the storm
 Of mighty war; then, with unwearied hand,
 Disdaining little delicacies, seiz'd
 The plough, and greatly independent liv'd, 65

YE generous BRITONS, venerate the plough;
 And o'er your hills, and long withdrawing vales,
 Let Autumn spread his treasures to the sun,
 Luxuriant and unbounded: as the sea, 70
 Far thro' his azure turbulent domain,
 Your empire owns, and from a thousand shores
 Wafts all the pomp of life into your ports;
 So with superior boon may your rich soil,
 Exuberant, Nature's better blessings pour 75
 O'er every land, the naked nations cloathe,
 And be th' exhaustless granary of a world!

Nor only thro' the lenient air this change,

Delicious, breathes; the penetrative sun,
 His force deep-darting to the dark retreat 80
 Of vegetation, sets the steaming *Power*
 At large, to wander o'er the verdant earth,
 In various hues; but chiefly thee, gay *Green*!
 'Thou smiling Nature's universal robe!
 United light and shade! where the light dwells 85
 With growing strength, and ever-new delight.

FROM the moist meadow to the withered hill,
 Led by the breeze, the vivid verdure runs,
 And swells, and deepens, to the cherish'd eye,
 The hawthorn whitens; and the juicy groves 90
 Put forth their buds, unfolding by degrees,
 Till the whole leafy forest stands display'd,
 In full luxuriance to the sighing gales;
 Where the deer rustle thro' the twining brake,
 And the birds sing conceal'd. At once, array'd 95
 In all the colours of the flushing year,
 By Nature's swift and secret-working hand,
 The garden glows, and fills the liberal air
 With lavish fragrance; while the promis'd fruit
 Lies yet a little embryo, unperceiv'd, 100
 Within its crimson folds. Now from the town
 Buried in smoke, and sleep, and noisom damps,
 Oft let me wander o'er the dewy fields,
 Where freshness breathes, and dash the trembling drops
 From the bent bush, as thro' the verdant maze 105
 Of sweet-briar hedges I pursue my walk;
 Or taste the smell of dairy; or ascend

Some eminence, AUGUSTA, in thy plains,
And see the country, far diffus'd around,
One boundless blush, one white-empurpled shower 110
Of mingled blossoms; where the raptur'd eye
Hurries from joy to joy, and, hid beneath
The fair profusion, yellow Autumn spies:

If, brush'd from *Russian* wilds, a cutting gale
Rise not, and scatter from his humid wings 115
The clammy mildew; or, dry-blowing, breathe
Untimely frost; before whose baleful blast
The full-blown Spring thro' all her foliage shrinks,
Joyless and dead, a wide-dejected waste.
Far oft, engender'd by the hazy north, 120
Myriads on myriads, insect armies warp
Keen in the poison'd breeze; and wasteful eat,
Thro' buds and bark, into the blackened core,
Their eager way. A feeble race! yet oft
The sacred sons of vengeance; on whose course 125
Corrosive famine waits, and kills the year.
To check this plague the skilful farmer chaff,
And blazing straw, before his orchard burns;
Till, all involv'd in smoke, the latent foe
From every cranny suffocated falls: 130
Or scatters o'er the blooms the pungent dust
Of pepper, fatal to the frosty tribe:
Or, when th' envenom'd leaf begins to curl,
With sprinkled water drowns them in their nest;
Nor, while they pick them up with busy bill, 135
The little trooping birds unwisely scares.

BE patient, swains; these cruel-seeming winds
Blow not in vain. Far hence they keep repress'd
Those deepening clouds on clouds, surcharg'd with rain,
That o'er the vast *Atlantic* hither borne, 140
In endless train, would quench the summer-blaze,
And, cheerless, drown the crude unripened year.

THE north-east spends his rage; he now shut up
Within his iron cave, th' effusive south
Warms the wide air, and o'er the void of heaven 145
Breathes the big clouds with vernal showers distent.
At first a dusky wreath they seem to rise,
Scarce staining ether; but by swift degrees,
In heaps on heaps, the doubling vapour sails
Along the loaded sky, and mingling deep 150
Sits on th' horizon round a settled gloom;
Not such as wintry-storms on mortals shed,
Oppressing life; but lovely, gentle, kind,
And full of every hope and every joy,
The wish of Nature. Gradual sinks the breeze 155
Into a perfect calm; that not a breath
Is heard to quiver through the closing woods,
Or rustling turn the many-twinkling leaves
Of aspen tall. Th' uncurling floods, diffus'd
In glassy breadth, seem thro' delusive lapse 160
Forgetful of their course. 'Tis silence all,
And pleasing expectation. Herds and flocks
Drop the dry sprig, and mute-imploring eye
The falling verdure. Hush'd in short suspense,
The plummy people streak their wings with oil, 165

To throw the lucid moisture trickling off;
And wait th' approaching sign to strike at once,
Into the general choir. Even mountains, vales,
And forests seem, impatient, to demand
The promis'd sweetness. Man superior walks 170
Amid the glad creation, musing praise,
And looking lively gratitude. At last,
The clouds consign their treasures to the fields;
And, softly shaking on the dimpled pool
Prolusive drops, let all their moisture flow, 175
In large effusion, o'er the freshened world.
The stealing shower is scarce to patter heard,
By such as wander thro' the forest walks,
Beneath the umbrageous multitude of leaves.
But who can hold the shade, while Heaven descends 180
In universal bounty, shedding herbs,
And fruits, and flowers, on Nature's ample lap?
Swift fancy fir'd anticipates their growth;
And, while the milky nutriment distils,
Beholds the kindling country colour round. 185

Thus all day long the full-distended clouds
Indulge their genial stores, and well-shower'd earth
Is deep enrich'd with vegetable life;
Till in the western sky, the downward sun
Looks out, effulgent, from amid the flush 190
Of broken clouds, gay-shifting to his beam.
The rapid radiance instantaneous strikes
Th' illumin'd mountain, thro' the forest streams,
Shakes on the floods, and in a yellow mist,

Far smoaking o'er th' interminable plain, 195
In twinkling myriads lights the dewy gems.
Moist, bright, and green, the landskip laughs around.
Full swell the woods; their every music wakes,
Mix'd in wild concert with the warbling brooks
Increas'd, the distant bleatings of the hills, 200
And hollow lows responsive from the vales,
Whence blending all the sweetened zephyr springs,
Mean time refracted from yon eastern cloud,
Bestriding earth, the grand ethereal bow
Shoots up immense; and every hue unfolds, 205
In fair proportion running from the red,
To where the violet fades into the sky.
Here, awful NEWTON, the dissolving clouds
Form, fronting on the sun, thy showery prism;
And to the sage-instructed eye unfold 210
The various twine of light, by thee disclos'd
From the white mingling maze. Not so the boy;
He wondering views the bright enchantment bend,
Delightful, o'er the radiant fields, and runs
To catch the falling glory; but amaz'd 215
Beholds th' amusive arch before him fly,
Then vanish quite away. Still night succeeds,
A softened shade, and saturated earth
Awaits the morning beam, to give to light
Rais'd thro' ten thousand different plastic tubes, 220
The balmy treasures of the former day.

Then spring the living herbs, profusely wild,
O'er all the deep green earth, beyond the power

Of botanist to number up their tribes:
Whether he steals along the lonely dale, 225
In silent search; or thro' the forest rank
With what the dull incurious weeds account,
Bursts his blind way; or climbs the mountain-rock,
Fir'd by the nodding verdure of its brow.
With such a liberal hand has nature flung 230
Their seeds abroad, blown them about in winds,
Innumerable mix'd them with the nursing mold,
The moistening current, and prolific rain,

BUT who their virtues can declare? who pierce,
With vision pure, into these secret stores 235
Of health, and life, and joy? the food of Man,
While yet he liv'd in innocence, and told
A length of golden years; unflafh'd in blood,
A stranger to the savage arts of life,
Death, rapine, carnage, surfeit, and disease; 240
The lord, and not the tyrant, of the world,

THE first fresh dawn then wak'd the gladdened race
Of uncorrupted Man, nor blush'd to see
The sluggard sleep beneath its sacred beam:
For their light slumbers gently fum'd away; 245
And up they rose as vigorous as the sun,
Or to the culture of the willing glebe,
Or to the cheerful tendance of the flock,
Meantime the song went round; and dance and sport,
Wisdom and friendly talk, successive, stole 250
Their hours away: while in the rosy vale

Love breath'd his infant sighs, from anguish free,
And full replete with bliss; save the sweet pain,
That, inly thrilling, but exalts it more.
Nor yet injurious act, nor surly deed, 255
Was known among those happy sons of HEAVEN;
For reason and benevolence were law.
Harmonious Nature too look'd smiling on.
Clear shone the skies, cool'd with eternal gales,
And balmy spirit all. The youthful sun 260
Shot his best rays, and still the gracious clouds
Drop'd farness down; as o'er the swelling mead,
The herds and flocks, commixing, play'd secure.
This when, emergent from the gloomy wood,
The glaring lion saw, his horrid heart 265
Was meekened, and he join'd his sullen joy.
For music held the whole in perfect peace:
Soft sigh'd the flute; the tender voice was heard,
Warbling the varied heart; the woodlands round
Apply'd their quire; and winds and waters flow'd 270
In consonance. Such were those prime of days.

But now those white unblemish'd manners, whence
The fabling poets took their golden age,
Are found no more amid these iron times,
These dregs of life! Now the distemper'd mind 275
Has lost that concord of harmonious powers,
Which forms the soul of happiness; and all
Is off the poise within: the passions all
Have burst their bounds; and reason half extinct,
Or impotent, or else approving, sees 280

The soul disorder. Senseless, and deform'd,
Convulsive anger storms at large; or pale,
And silent, settles into fell revenge.
Base envy withers at another's joy,
And hates that excellence it cannot reach. 285
Desponding fear, of feeble fancies full,
Weak and unmanly, loosens every power.
Even love itself is bitterness of soul,
A pensive anguish pining at the heart;
Or, sunk to sordid interest, feels no more 290
That noble wish, that never-cloy'd desire,
Which, selfish joy disdaining, seeks alone
To bless the dearer object of its flame.
Hope sickens with extravagance; and grief,
Of life impatient, into madness swells; 295
Or in dead silence wastes the weeping hours.
These, and a thousand mixt emotions more,
From ever-changing views of good and ill,
Form'd infinitely various, vex the mind
With endless storm: whence, deeply rankling, grows
The partial thought, a listless unconcern, 301
Cold, and averting from our neighbour's good;
Then dark disgust, and hatred, winding wiles,
Coward deceit, and ruffian violence:
At last, extinct each social feeling, fell 305
And joyless inhumanity pervades
And petrifies the heart. Nature disturb'd
Is deem'd, vindictive, to have chang'd her course.

HENCE, in old dusky time, a deluge came;

When the deep-cleft disparting orb, that arch'd 310
 The central waters round, impetuous rush'd,
 With universal burst, into the gulph,
 And o'er the high pil'd hills of fractur'd earth
 Wide dash'd the waves, in undulation vast;
 Till, from the center to the streaming clouds, 315
 A shoreless ocean tumbled round the globe.

THE Seasons since have, with severer sway,
 Oppress'd a broken world: the Winter keen
 Shook forth his waste of snows; and Summer shot
 His pestilential heats. Great Spring, before, 320
 Green'd all the year; and fruits and blossoms blush'd,
 In social sweetness, on the self-same bough.
 Pure was the temperate air; an even calm
 Perpetual reign'd, save what the zephyrs bland
 Breath'd o'er the blue expanse: for then nor storms
 Were taught to blow, nor hurricanes to rage; 326
 Sound slept the waters; no sulphureous glooms
 Swell'd in the sky, and send the lightning forth;
 While sickly damps, and cold autumnal fogs,
 Hung not, relaxing, on the springs of life, 330
 But now, of turbid elements the sport,
 From clear to cloudy tost, from hot to cold,
 And dry to moist, with inward-eating change,
 Our drooping days are dwindled down to nought,
 Their period finish'd ere 'tis well begun. 335

AND yet the wholesome herb neglected dies;
 Though with the pure exhilarating soul

Of nutriment and health, and vital powers,
Beyond the search of art, 'tis copious blest.
For, with hot ravine fir'd, ensanguin'd Man 340
Is now become the lion of the plain,
And worse. The wolf, who from the nightly fold
Fierce drags the bleating prey, ne'er drunk her milk,
Nor wore her warming fleece: nor has the steer,
At whose strong chest the deadly tyger hangs, 345
E'er plow'd for him. They too are temper'd high,
With hunger stung and wild necessity,
Nor lodges pity in their shaggy breast.
But *Man*, whom Nature form'd of milder clay,
With every kind emotion in his heart, 350
And taught alone to weep; while from her lap
She pours ten thousand delicacies, herbs,
And fruits, as numerous as the drops of rain
Or beams that gave them birth: shall he, fair form!
Who wears sweet miles, and looks erect on Heaven,
E'er stoop to mingle with the prowling herd, 356
And dip his tongue in gore? The beast of prey,
Blood stain'd, deserves to bleed: but you, ye flocks,
What have you done; ye peaceful people, what,
To merit death? you, who have given us milk 360
In luscious streams, and lent us your own coat
Against the winter's cold? And the plain ox,
That harmless, honest, guileless animal,
In what has he offended? he, whose toil,
Patient and ever ready, clothes the land 365
With all the pomp of harvest; shall he bleed,
And struggling groan beneath the cruel hands
Even of the clown he feeds? and that, perhaps,

To swell the riot of th' autumnal feast,
 Won by his labour? Thus the feeling heart 370
 Would tenderly suggest: but 'tis enough,
 In this late age, adventurous, to have touch'd
 Light on the numbers of the *Samian* sage.
 High HEAVEN forbids the bold presumptuous strain;
 Whose wisest will has fix'd us in a state 375
 That must not yet to pure perfection rise.

Now when the first foul torrent of the brooks,
 Swell'd with the vernal rains, is ebb'd away;
 And, whitening, down their mossy-tinctur'd stream
 Descends the billowy foam: now is the time, 380
 While yet the dark-brown water aids the guile,
 To tempt the trout. The well-dissembled fly,
 The rod fine-tapering with elastic spring,
 Snatch'd from the hoary steed the floating line,
 And all thy slender watry stores prepare. 385
 But let not on thy hook the tortur'd worm,
 Convulsive, twist in agonizing folds;
 Which, by rapacious hunger swallow'd deep,
 Gives, as you tear it from the bleeding breast
 Of the weak helpless uncomplaining wretch, 390
 Harsh pain and horror to the tender hand.

WHEN with his lively ray the potent sun
 Has pierc'd the streams, and rous'd the finny race,
 Then, issuing cheerful, to thy sport repair;
 Chief should the western breezes curling play, 395
 And light o'er ether bear the shadowy clouds.
 High to their fount, this day, amid the hills,

And woodlands warbling round, trace up the brooks;
The next, pursue their rocky-channel'd maze,
Down to the river, in whose ample wave 400
Their little naiads love to sport at large.
Just in the dubious point, where with the pool
Is mix'd the trembling stream, or where it boils
Around the stone, or from the hollow'd bank
Reverted plays in undulating flow, 405
There throw, nice-judging, the delusive fly;
And as you lead it round in artful curve,
With eye attentive mark the springing game.
Strait as above the surface of the flood
They wanton rise, or urg'd by hunger leap, 410
Then fix, with gentle twitch, the barbed hook:
Some lightly tossing to the grassy bank,
And to the shelving shore slow-dragging some,
With various hand proportion'd to their force.
If yet too young, and easily deceiv'd, 415
A worthless prey scarce bends your pliant rod,
Him piteous of his youth and the short space
He has enjoy'd the vital light of Heaven,
Soft disengage, and back into the stream
The speckled captive throw. But should you lure 420
From his dark haunt, beneath the tangled roots
Of pendant trees, the monarch of the brook,
Behoves you then to ply your finest art.
Long time he, following cautious, scans the fly;
And oft attempts to seize it, but as oft 425
The dimpled water speaks his jealous fear.
At last, while haply o'er the shaded sun

Passes a cloud, he desperate takes the death,
 With fullen plunge. At once he darts along,
 Deep struck, and runs out all the lengthen'd line; 430
 Then seeks the farthest ooze, the sheltering weed,
 The cavern'd bank, his old secure abode;
 And flies aloft, and flounces round the pool,
 Indignant of the guile. With yielding hand,
 That feels him still, yet to his furious course 435
 Gives way, you, now retiring, following now
 Across the stream, exhaust his idle rage:
 Till floating broad upon his breathless side,
 And to his fate abandon'd, to the shore
 You gaily drag your unresisting prize. 440

THUS pass the temperate hours: but when the sun
 Shakes from his noon-day throne the scattering clouds,
 Even shooting listless languor thro' the deeps;
 Then seek the bank where flowering elders croud,
 Where scatter'd wild the lily of the vale 445
 Its balmy essence breathes, where cowslips hang
 The dewy head, where purple violets lurk,
 With all the lowly children of the shade:
 Or lie reclin'd beneath yon spreading ash, 449
 Hung o'er the steep; whence, borne on liquid wing,
 The sounding culver shoots; or where the hawk,
 High, in the beetling cliff, his airy builds.
 There let the classic page thy fancy lead
 Thro' rural scenes; such as the *Mantuan* swain
 Paints in the matchless harmony of song. 455
 Or catch thyself the landskip, gliding swift

Athwart imagination's vivid eye;
 Or by the vocal woods and waters lull'd,
 And lost in lonely musing, in the dream,
 Confus'd, of careless solitude, where mix 460
 Ten thousand wandering images of things,
 Soothe every gust of passion into peace;
 All but the swellings of the soften'd heart,
 That waken, not disturb, the tranquil mind.

BEHOLD yon breathing prospect bids the muse 465
 Throw all her beauty forth. But who can paint
 Like Nature? Can imagination boast,
 Amid its gay creation, hues like hers?
 Or can it mix them with that matchless skill,
 And lose them in each other, as appears 470
 In every bud that blows? If fancy then
 Unequal fails beneath the pleasing task,
 Ah what shall language do? ah where find words
 Ting'd with so many colours; and whose power,
 To life approaching, may perfume my lays 475
 With that fine oil, those aromatic gales,
 That inexhaustive flow continual round?

YET, tho' successful, will the toil delight.
 Come then, ye virgins and ye youths, whose hearts
 Have felt the raptures of refining love; 480
 And thou, AMANDA, come, pride of my song!
 Form'd by the Graces, loveliness itself!
 Come with those downcast eyes, sedate and sweet,
 Those looks demure, that deeply pierce the soul,

Where, with the light of thoughtful reason mix'd, 485
 Shines lively fancy and the feeling heart :
 Oh come! and while the rosy-footed May
 Steals blushing on, together let us tread
 The morning-dews, and gather in their prime
 Fresh-blooming flowers, to grace thy braided hair, 490
 And thy lov'd bosom that improves their sweets.

SEE, where the winding vale its lavish stores,
 Irriguous, spreads. See, how the lily drinks
 The latent rill, scarce oozing thro' the grass,
 Of growth luxuriant; or the humid bank, 495
 In fair profusion, decks. Long let us walk,
 Where the breeze blows from yon extended field
 Of blossom'd beans. *Arabia* cannot boast
 A fuller gale of joy, than, liberal, thence
 Breathes thro' the sense, and takes the ravish'd soul. 500
 Nor is the mead unworthy of thy foot,
 Full of fresh verdure, and unnumber'd flowers,
 The negligence of *Nature*, wide, and wild;
 Where, undisguis'd by mimic *Art*, she spreads
 Unbounded beauty to the roving eye. 505
 Here their delicious task the fervent bees,
 In swarming millions, tend: around, athwart,
 Thro' the soft air, the busy nations fly,
 Cling to the bud, and with inserted tube,
 Suck its pure essence, its ethereal soul; 510
 And oft, with bolder wing, they soaring dare
 The purple heath, or where the wild thyme grows,
 And yellow load them with the luscious spoil.

At length the finish'd garden to the view
Its vistas opens, and its alleys green. 515
Snatch'd thro' the verdant maze, the hurried eye
Distracted wanders; now the bowery walk
Of covert close, where scarce a speck of day
Falls on the lengthen'd gloom, protracted sweeps:
Now meets the bending sky; the river now 520
Dimpling along, the breezy-ruffled lake,
The forest darkening round, the glittering spire,
Th' ethereal mountain, and the distant main.
But why so far excursive? when at hand,
Along these blushing borders, bright with dew, 525
And in yon mingled wilderness of flowers,
Fair-handed Spring unbosoms every grace;
Throws out the snow-drop, and the crocus first;
The daisy, primrose, violet darkly blue,
And polyanthus of unnumber'd dyes; 530
The yellow wall-flower, stain'd with iron brown;
And lavish stock that scents the garden round:
From the soft wing of vernal breezes shed,
Anemonies; auriculas, enrich'd
With shining meal o'er all their velvet leaves; 535
And full ranunculas, of glowing red.
Then comes the tulip-race, where Beauty plays
Her idle freaks; from family diffus'd
To family, as flies the father-dust,
The varied colours run; and while they break 540
On the charm'd eye, th' exulting florist marks,
With secret pride, the wonders of his hand,
No gradual bloom is wanting; from the bud,

First-born of Spring, to Summer's musky tribes:
 Nor hyacinths, of purest virgin white,
 Low-bent, and blushing inward; nor jonquils, 545
 Of potent fragrance; nor Narcissus fair,
 As o'er the fabled fountain hanging still;
 Nor broad carnations, nor gay-spotted pinks;
 Nor, shower'd from every bush, the damask-rose.
 Infinite numbers, delicacies, smells, 550
 With hues on hues expression cannot paint,
 The breath of Nature, and her endless bloom.

HAIL, SOURCE OF BEING! UNIVERSAL SOUL
 Of heaven and earth! ESSENTIAL PRESENCE,
 hail! 554

To THEE I bend the knee; to THEE my thoughts,
 Continual, climb; who with a master-hand,
 Hast the great whole into perfection touch'd.
 By THEE the various vegetative tribes,
 Wrapt in a filmy net, and clad with leaves,
 Draw the live ether, and imbibe the dew: 560
 By THEE dispos'd into congenial soils,
 Stands each attractive plant, and sucks, and swells
 The juicy tide; a twining mass of tubes.
 At THY command the vernal sun awakes
 The torpid sap, detrudd to the root 565
 By wintry winds; that now in fluent dance,
 And lively fermentation, mounting, spreads
 All this innumerable-colour'd scene of things.

As rising from the vegetable world

My theme ascends, with equal wing ascend, 570
 My panting Muse! and hark, how loud the woods
 Invites you forth in all your gayest trim.
 Lend me your song, ye nightingales! oh pour
 The mazy-running soul of melody
 Into my varied verse! while I deduce, 575
 From the first note the hollow cuckoo sings,
 The symphony of Spring, and touch a theme
 Unknown to fame, *the passion of the groves.*

WHEN first the soul of love is sent abroad,
 Warm thro' the vital air, and on the heart 580
 Harmonious seizes, the gay troops begin,
 In gallant thought, to plume the painted wing;
 And try again the long-forgotten strain,
 At first faint-warbled. But no sooner grows
 The soft infusion prevalent, and wide, 585
 Than, all alive, at once their joy o'erflows
 In music unconfin'd. Up-springs the lark,
 Shrill-voic'd, and loud, the messenger of morn:
 Ere yet the shadows fly, he mounted sings
 Amid the dawning clouds, and from their haunts 590
 Calls up the tuneful nations. Every copse
 Deep-tangled, tree irregular, and bush
 Bending with dewy moisture, o'er the heads
 Of the coy quirksters that lodge within,
 Are prodigal of harmony. The thrush 595
 And wood-lark, o'er the kind contending throng
 Superior heard, run thro' the sweetest length
 Of notes; when listening *Philomela* deigns

To let them joy, and purposes, in thought
Elate, to make her night excel their day. 600
The black-bird whistles from the thorny brake;
The mellow bullfinch answers from the grove:
Nor are the linnets, o'er the flowering furze
Pour'd out profusely, silent. Join'd to these
Innumerable songsters, in the freshening shade 605
Of new-sprung leaves, their modulations mix
Mellifluous. The jay, the rook, the daw,
And each harsh pipe, discordant heard alone,
Aid the full concert: while the stock-dove breathes
A melancholy murmur thro' the whole. 610

'Tis love creates their melody, and all
This waste of music is the voice of love;
That even to birds, and beasts, the tender arts
Of pleasing teaches. Hence the glossy kind
Try every winning way inventive love 615
Can dictate, and in courtship to their mates
Pour forth their little souls. First, wide around,
With distant awe, in airy rings they rove,
Endeavouring by a thousand tricks to catch
The cunning, conscious, half-averted glance 620
Of the regardless charmer. Should she seem
Softening the least approbance to bestow,
Their colours burnish, and by hope inspir'd,
They brisk advance; then on a sudden struck,
Retire disorder'd; then again approach; 625
In fond rotation spread the spotted wing,
And shiver every feather with desire.

CONNUBIAL leagues agreed, to the deep woods
They haste away, all as their fancy leads,
Pleasure, or food, or secret safety prompts; 630
That NATURE's *great command* may be obey'd,
Nor all the sweet sensations they perceive
Indulg'd in vain. Some to the holly-hedge
Nestling repair, and to the thicket some;
Some to the rude protection of the thorn 635
Commit their feeble offspring: The cleft tree
Offers its kind concealment to a few,
Their food its insects, and its moss their nests.
Others apart far in the grassy dale,
Or roughening waste, their humble texture weave. 640
But most in woodland solitudes delight,
In unfrequented glooms, or shaggy banks,
Steep, and divided by a babbling brook,
Whose murmurs soothe them all the live-long day,
When by kind duty fix'd. Among the roots 645
Of hazel, pendant o'er the plaintive stream,
They frame the first foundation of their domes;
Dry sprigs of trees, in artful fabric laid,
And bound with clay together. Now 'tis nought
But restless hurry thro' the busy air, 650
Beat by unnumber'd wings. The swallow sweeps
The slimy pool, to build his hanging house
Intent. And often, from the careless back
Of herds and flocks, a thousand tugging bills
Pluck hair and wool; and oft, when unobserv'd, 655
Steal from the barn a straw: till soft and warm,
Clean, and complete, their habitation grows.

As thus the patient dam assiduous sits,
 Not to be tempted from her tender task,
 Or by sharp hunger, or by smooth delight, 660
 Tho' the whole loosened Spring around her blows,
 Her sympathizing lover takes his stand
 High on th' opponent bank, and ceaseless sings
 The tedious time away; or else supplies
 Her place a moment, while she sudden flits 665
 To pick the scanty meal. Th' appointed time
 With pious toil fulfill'd, the callow young,
 Warm'd and expanded into perfect life,
 Their brittle bondage break, and come to light,
 A helpless family, demanding food 670
 With constant clamour: O what passions then,
 What melting sentiments of kindly care,
 On the new parents seize! away they fly
 Affectionate, and undefiring bear
 The most delicious morsel to their young; 675
 Which equally distributed, again
 The search begins. Even so a gentle pair,
 By fortune sunk, but form'd of generous mold,
 And charm'd with cares beyond the vulgar breast,
 In some lone cott amid the distant woods, 680
 Sustain'd alone by providential HEAVEN,
 Oft as they weeping eye their infant train,
 Check their own appetites, and give them all.

Nor toil alone they scorn: exalting love,
 By the great FATHER OF THE SPRING inspir'd, 685
 Gives instant courage to the *fearful* race,

And to the *simple*, art. With *stealthy* wing,
 Should some rude foot their woody haunts molest,
 Amid a neighbouring bush they silent drop,
 And whirring thence, as if alarm'd, deceive 690
 Th' unfeeling school-boy. Hence, around the head
 Of wandering swain, the white-wing'd plover wheels
 Her founding flight, and then directly on
 In long excursion skims the level lawn,
 To tempt him from her nest. The wild-duck, hence, 695
 O'er the rough moss, and o'er the trackless waste
 The heath-hen flutters, pious fraud! to lead
 The hot-pursuing spaniel far astray.

BE not the Muse ashamed, here to bemoan
 Her brothers of the grove, by tyrant Man 700
 Inhuman caught, and in the narrow cage
 From liberty confin'd, and boundless air.
 Dull are the pretty slaves, their plumage dull,
 Ragged, and all its brightening lustre lost;
 Nor is that sprightly wildness in their notes, 705
 Which, clear and vigorous, warbles from the beech.
 Oh then, ye friends of love and love-taught song,
 Spare the soft tribes, this barbarous art forbear;
 If on your bosom innocence can win,
 Music engage, or piety persuade. 710

BUT let not chief the nightingale lament
 Her ruin'd care, too delicately fram'd
 To brook the harsh confinement of the cage.
 Oft when, returning with her loaded bill,

Th' astonish'd mother finds a vacant nest, 715
 By the hard hand of unrelenting clowns
 Robb'd, to the ground the vain provision falls;
 Her pinions ruffle, and low-drooping scarce
 Can bear the mourner to the poplar shade;
 Where, all abandon'd to despair, she sings 720
 Her sorrows thro' the night; and, on the bough,
 Sole-fitting, still at every dying fall
 Takes up again her lamentable strain
 Of winding woe; till wide around, the woods
 Sigh to her song, and with her wail resound 725

BUT now the feather'd youth their former bounds,
 Ardent, disdain; and weighing oft their wings,
 Demand the free possession of the sky:
 This one glad office more, and then dissolves
 Parental love at once, now needless grown. 730
 Unlavish *Wisdom* never works in vain.
 'Tis on some evening, sunny, grateful, mild,
 When nought but balm is breathing thro' the woods,
 With yellow lustre bright, that the new tribes
 Visit the spacious heavens, and look abroad 735
 On Nature's common, far as they can see,
 Or wing, their range and pasture. O'er the boughs
 Dancing about, still at the giddy verge
 Their resolution fails; their pinions still,
 In loose libration stretch'd, to trust the void 740
 Trembling refuse: till down before them fly
 The parent-guides, and chide, exhort, command,
 Or push them off. The surging air receives

Its plummy burden; and their self-taught wings
 Winnow the waving element. On ground 745
 Alighted, bolder up again they lead,
 Farther and farther on, the lengthening flight;
 Till vanish'd every fear, and every power
 Rous'd into life and action, light in air
 Th' acquitted parents see their soaring race, 750
 And once rejoicing never know them more.

HIGH from the summit of a craggy cliff,
 Hung o'er the deep, such as amazing frowns
 On utmost * *Kilda's* shore, whose lonely race
 Resign the setting sun to *Indian* worlds, 755
 The royal eagle draws his vigorous young,
 Strong pounc'd, and ardent with paternal fire.
 Now fit to raise a kingdom of their own,
 He drives them from his fort, the towering seat,
 For ages, of his empire; which, in peace, 760
 Unstain'd he holds, while many a league to sea
 He wings his course, and preys in distant isles.

SHOULD I my steps turn to the rural seat,
 Whose lofty elms, and venerable oaks,
 Invite the rook, who high amid the boughs, 765
 In early Spring, his airy city builds,
 And ceaseless caws amusive; there, well-pleas'd,
 I might the various polity survey
 Of the mix'd household kind. The careful hen

* The farthest of the western islands of *Scotland*.

Calls all her chirping family around, 770
 Fed and defended by the fearless cock;
 Whose breast with ardour flames, as on he walks
 Graceful, and crows defiance. In the pond,
 The finely checker'd duck before her train,
 Rows garrulous. The stately-sailing swan 775
 Gives out his snowy plumage to the gale;
 And, arching proud his neck, with oary feet
 Bears forward fierce, and guards his sister-isle,
 Protective of his young. The turkey nigh,
 Loud-threatning, reddens; while the peacock spreads
 His every-colour'd glory to the sun, 780
 And swims in radiant majesty along.
 O'er the whole homely scene, the cooing dove
 Flies thick in amorous chace, and wanton rolls
 The glancing eye, and turns the changeful neck. 785

WHILE thus the gentle tenants of the shade
 Indulge their purer loves, the rougher world
 Of brutes, below, rush furious into flame,
 And fierce desire. Thro' all his lusty veins
 The bull, deep-scorch'd, the raging passion feels. 790
 Of pasture sick, and negligent of food,
 Scarce seen, he wades among the yellow broom,
 While o'er his ample sides the rambling sprays
 Luxuriant shoot; or thro' the mazy wood
 Dejected wanders, nor th' enticing bud 795
 Crops, tho' it presses on his careless sense.
 And oft, in jealous madning fancy wrapt,
 He seeks the fight; and, idly-butting feigns

His rival gor'd in every knotty trunk.
 Him should he meet, the bellowing war begins : 800
 Their eyes flash fury ; to the hollow'd earth,
 Whence the sand flies, they mutter bloody deeds,
 And groaning deep, th' impetuous battle mix :
 While the fair heifer, balmy-breathing, near,
 Stands kindling up their rage. The trembling steed,
 With this hot impulse seiz'd in every nerve, 806
 Nor hears the rein, nor heeds the founding thong :
 Blows are not felt ; but tossing high his head,
 And by the well known joy to distant plains
 Attracted strong, all wild he bursts away ; 810
 O'er rocks, and woods, and craggy mountains flies
 And, neighing, on the ærial summit takes
 Th' exciting gale ; then, steep descending, cleaves
 The headlong torrents foaming down the hills,
 Even where the madness of the straiten'd stream 815
 Turns in black eddies round ; such is the force
 With which his frantic heart and sinews swell.

NOR undelighted by the boundless Spring
 Are the broad monsters of the foaming deep :
 From the deep ooze and gelid cavern rous'd. 820
 They flounce and tumble in unwieldy joy.
 Dire were the strain, and dissonant, to sing
 The cruel raptures of the savage kind ;
 How by this flame their native wrath sublim'd,
 They roam, amid the fury of their heart, 825
 The far-resounding waste in fiercer bands,
 And growl their horrid loves. But this the theme

I sing, enraptur'd, to the BRITISH FAIR,
 Forbids, and leads me to the mountain-brow,
 Where sits the shepherd on the grassy turf, 830
 Inhaling, healthful, the descending sun.
 Around him feeds his many bleating flock,
 Of various cadence; and his sportive lambs,
 This way and that convolv'd, in friskful glee,
 Their frolicks play. And now the sprightly race 835
 Invites them forth; when swift, the signal given,
 They start away, and sweep the massy mound
 That runs around the hill; the rampart once
 Of iron war, in ancient barbarous times,
 When disunited BRITAIN ever bled, 840
 Lost in eternal broil: ere yet she grew
 To this deep-laid indissoluble state,
 Where *Wealth* and *Commerce* lift their golden heads;
 And o'er our labours, *Liberty* and *Law*,
 Impartial, watch; the wonder of a world! 845

WHAT is this *mighty Breath*. ye sages, say,
 That, in a powerful language, felt not heard,
 Instructs the fowls of heaven; and thro' their breast
 These arts of love diffuses? What, but GOD?
 Inspiring GOD! who boundless Spirit all, 850
 And unremitting Energy, pervades,
 Adjusts; sustains, and agitates the whole.
 He ceaseless works *alone*; and yet *alone*
 Seems not to work: with such perfection fram'd
 Is this compley stupendous scheme of things. 855
 But, tho' conceal'd, to every purer eye

Th' informing Author in his works appears:
Chief, lovely Spring, in thee, and thy soft scenes,
The SMILING GOD is seen; while water, earth,
And air attest his bounty; which exalts 860
The brute-creation to this finer thought,
And annual melts their undesigning hearts
Profusely thus in tenderness and joy.

STILL let my song a nobler note assume,
And sing th' infusive force of Spring on Man; 865
When heaven and earth, as if contending, vye
To raise his being and serene his soul.
Can he forbear to join the general smile
Of Nature? Can fierce passions vex his breast,
While every gale is peace, and every grove 870
Is melody? Hence! from the bounteous walks
Of flowing Spring, ye sordid sons of earth,
Hard, and unfeeling of another's woe;
Or only lavish to yourselves; away!
But come, ye generous minds, in whose wide thought,
Of all his works, CREATIVE BOUNTY burns 876
With warmest beam; and on your open front
And liberal eye, sits, from his dark retreat
Inviting modest want. Nor, till invoc'd
Can restless goodness wait; your active search 880
Leaves no cold wintry corner unexplor'd;
Like silent-working HEAVEN, surprizing oft
The lonely heart with unexpected good.
For you the roving spirit of the wind
Blows Spring abroad; for you the teeming clouds 885

Descend in gladfome plenty o'er the world;
 And the fun fheds his kindeft rays for you,
 Ye flower of human race! In thefe green days,
 Reviving Sicknefs lifts her languid head;
 Life flows afrefh; and young-ey'd Health exalts 890
 The whole creation round. Contentment walks
 The funny glade, and feels an inward blifs
 Spring o'er his mind, beyond the power of kings
 To purchafe. Pure ferenity apace
 Induces thought, and contemplation ftill. 895
 By fwift degrees the love of Nature works,
 And warms the bofom; till at laft fublim'd
 To rapture, and enthufiaftic heat,
 We feel the prefent DEITY, and tafte
 The joy of GOD to fee a happy world! 900

THESE are the fabled feelings of thy heart,
 Thy heart inform'd by reafon's purer ray,
 O LYTTLETON, the friend! thy paffions thus
 And meditations vary, as at large,
 Courting the Mufe, thro' *Hagley Park* thou ftayeft; 905
 Thy *Britifh Tempe*! There along the dale,
 With woods o'er-hung, and fhagg'd with moffy rocks,
 Whence on each hand the guffing waters play,
 And down the rough cascade white-dafhing fall,
 Or gleam in lengthened vifta thro' the trees, 910
 You filent ftal; or fit beneath the fhade
 Of folemn oaks, that tuft the fwelling mounts
 Thrown graceful round by Nature's carelefs hand,
 And pensive liften to the various voice

Of rural peace: the herds, the flocks, the birds, 915
The hollow-whispering breeze, the plaint of rills,
That, purling down amid the twisted roots
Which creep around, their dewy murmurs shake
On the sooth'd ear. From these abstracted oft,
You wander thro' the philosophic world; 920
Where in bright train continual wonders rise,
Or to the curious or the pious eye.
And oft conducted by historic truth,
You tread the long extent of backward time:
Planning, with warm benevolence of mind, 925
And honest zeal unwarp'd by party-rage,
BRITANNIA'S weal; how from the venal gulph
'To raise her virtue, and her arts revive.
Or, turning thence thy view, these graver thoughts
The Muses charm: while, with sure taste refin'd, 930
You draw th'inspiring breath of ancient song;
Till nobly rises, emulous, thy own.
Perhaps thy lov'd LUCINDA shares thy walk,
With soul to thine attun'd. Then Nature all
Wears to the lover's eye a look of love; 935
And all the tumult of a guilty world,
Toft by ungenerous passions, sinks away.
The tender heart is animated peace;
And as it pours its copious treasures forth,
In varied converse, softening every theme, 940
You, frequent-pausing, turn, and from her eyes,
Where meekened sense, and amiable grace,
And lively sweetness dwell, enraptur'd, drink
That nameless spirit of ethereal joy,

Unutterable happiness! which love, 945
 Alone, bestows, and on a *favour'd few*.
 Meantime you gain the height, from whose fair brow
 The bursting prospect spreads immense around:
 And snatch'd o'er hill and dale, and wood and lawn,
 And verdant field, and darkening heath between, 950
 And villages embosom'd soft in trees,
 And spiry towns by surging columns mark'd
 Of household smoak, your eye excursive roams:
 Wide-stretching from the *Hall*, in whose kind haunt
 The *Hospitable Genius* lingers still, 955
 To where the broken landskip, by degrees,
 Ascending, roughens into rigid hills;
 O'er which the *Cambrian* mountains, like far clouds
 That skirt the blue horizon, dusky rise.

FLUSH'D by the spirit of the genial year, 960
 Now from the virgin's cheek a fresher bloom
 Shoots, less and less, the live carnation round;
 Her lips blush deeper sweets; she breathes of youth;
 The shining moisture swells into her eyes,
 In brighter flow; her wishing bosom heaves, 965
 With palpitations wild; kind tumults seize
 Her veins, and all her yielding soul is love.
 From the keen gaze her lover turns away,
 Full of the dear extatic power, and sick
 With sighing languishment. Ah then, ye fair! 970
 Be greatly cautious of your sliding hearts;
 Dare not th' infectious sigh; the pleading look,
 Down cast, and low, in meek submission drest,

But full of guile. Let not the fervent tongue,
 Prompt to deceive, with adulation smooth, 975
 Gain on your purpos'd will, Nor in the bower,
 Where woodbinds flaunt. and roses shed a couch,
 While evening draws her crimson curtains round,
 Trust your soft minutes with betraying Man.

AND let th' aspiring youth beware of love, 980
 Of the smooth glance beware; for 'tis too late,
 When on his heart the torrent-softness pours.
 Then wisdom prostrate lies, and fading fame
 Dissolves in air away; while the fond soul,
 Wrapt in gay visions of unreal bliss, 985
 Still paints th' illusive form; the kindling grace;
 Th' inticing smile; the modest-seeming eye,
 Beneath whose beauteous beams, belying heaven,
 Lurk searchless cunning, cruelty, and death:
 And still, false-warbling in his cheated ear, 990
 Her syren voice, enchanting, draws him on
 To guileful shores, and meads of fatal joy.

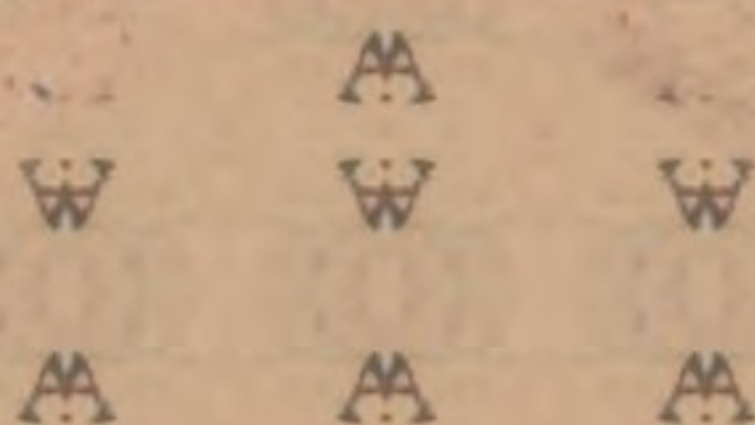
EVEN present, in the very lap of love
 Inglorious laid; while music flows around,
 Perfumes, and oils, and wine, and wanton hours; 995
 Amid the roses fierce Repentance rears
 Her snaky crest: a quick-returning pang
 Shoots thro' the conscious heart; where honour still,
 And great design, against the oppressive load
 Of luxury, by fits, impatient heave. 1000

BUT absent, what fantastic woes, arous'd,
 Rage, in each thought, by restless musing fed,
 Chill the warm cheek, and blast the bloom of life?
 Neglected fortune flies; and sliding swift,
 Prone into ruin, fall his scorn'd affairs. 1005
 'Tis nought but gloom around: The darkened sun
 Loses his light: The rosy-bosom'd Spring
 To weeping fancy pines; and yon bright arch,
 Contracted, bends into a dusky vault.
 All Nature fades extinct; and she alone 1010
 Heard, felt, and seen, possesses every thought,
 Fills every sense, and pants in every vein.
 Books are but formal dulness, tedious friends;
 And sad amid the social band he sits,
 Lonely, and unattentive. From his tongue 1015
 Th' unfinish'd period falls: while borne away
 On swelling thought, his wasted spirit flies
 To the vain bosom of his distant fair;
 And leaves the semblance of a lover, fix'd
 In melancholy site, with head declin'd, 1020
 And love-dejected eyes. Sudden he starts,
 Shook from his tender trance, and restless runs
 To glimmering shades, and sympathetic glooms;
 Where the dun umbrage o'er the falling stream,
 Romantic, hangs; there thro' the pensive dusk 1025
 Strays, in heart thrilling meditation lost,
 Indulging all to love: or on the bank
 Thrown, amid drooping lilies, swells the breeze
 With sighs unceasing, and the brook with tears,
 Thus in soft anguish he consumes the day, 1030

Nor quits his deep retirement, till the Moon
Peeps thro' the chambers of the fleecy east,
Enlightened by degrees, and in her train
Leads on the gentle hours; then forth he walks,
Beneath the trembling languish of her beam, 1035
With softened soul, and wooes the bird of eve
To mingle woes with his; or, while the world
And all the sons of Care lie hush'd in sleep,
Associates with the midnight shadows drear;
And, sighing to the lonely taper, pours 1040
His idly-tortur'd heart into the page,
Meant for the moving messenger of love;
Where rapture burns on rapture, every line
With rising frenzy fir'd. But if on bed
Delirious flung, sleep from his pillow flies. 1045
All night he tosses, nor the balmy power
In any posture finds; till the grey morn
Lifts her pale lustre on the paler wretch,
Exanimate by love: and then perhaps
Exhausted Nature sinks a while to rest, 1050
Still interrupted by distracted dreams,
That o'er the sick imagination rise,
And in black colours paint the mimic scene.
Oft with th' enchantress of his soul he talks;
Sometimes in crouds distress'd; or if retir'd 1055
To secret winding flower-enwoven bowers,
Far from the dull impertinence of Man,
Just as he, credulous, his endless cares
Begins to lose in blind oblivious love,
Snatch'd from her yielded hand, he knows not how, 1060

Thro' forests huge, and long untravel'd heaths
 With desolation brown, he wanders waste,
 In night and tempest wrapt; or shrinks aghast,
 Back, from the bending precipice; or wades
 The turbid stream below, and strives to reach 1065
 The farther shore; where succourless, and sad,
 She with extended arms his aid implores;
 But strives in vain: borne by th' outrageous flood
 To distance down, he rides the ridgy wave,
 Or whelm'd beneath the boiling eddy sinks. 1070

THESE are the charming agonies of love,
 Whose misery delights. But thro' the heart
 Should jealousy its venom once diffuse,
 'Tis then delightful misery no more,
 But agony unmix'd, incessant gall, 1075
 Corroding every thought, and blasting all
 Love's paradise. Ye fairy prospects, then,
 Ye beds of roses, and ye bowers of joy,
 Farewel! Ye gleamings of departed peace,
 Shine out your last! the yellow-tinging plague 1080
 Internal vision taints, and in a night
 Of livid gloom imagination wraps.
 Ah then; instead of love-enlivened checks,
 Of sunny features, and of ardent eyes
 With flowing rapture bright, dark looks succeed, 1085
 Suffus'd and glaring with untender fire;
 A clouded aspect, and a burning cheek,
 Where the whole poison'd soul, malignant, fits,
 And frightens love away. Ten thousand fears



Invented wild, ten thousand frantic views 1090
Of horrid rivals, hanging on the charms
For which he melts in fondness, eat him up
With fervent anguish, and consuming rage.
In vain reproaches lend their idle aid,
Deceitful pride, and resolution, frail, 1095
Giving false peace a moment. Fancy pours,
Afresh, her beauties on his busy thought,
Her first endearments twining round the soul,
With all the witchcraft of ensnaring love.
Straight the fierce storm involves his mind anew, 1100
Flames thro' the nerves, and boils along the veins;
While anxious doubt distracts the tortur'd heart:
For even the sad assurance of his fears
Were ease to what he feels. Thus the warm youth,
Whom love deludes into his thorny wilds, 1105
Thro' flowery-tempting paths, or leads a life
Of fevered rapture, or of cruel care;
His brightest flames extinguish'd all, and all
His brightest moments running down to waste.

BUT happy they! the happiest of their kind! 1110
Whom gentler stars unite, and in one fate
Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend.
'Tis not the coarser tie of human laws,
Unnatural oft, and foreign to the mind,
That binds their peace, but harmony itself, 1115
Attuning all their passions into love;
Where friendship full exerts her softest power,
Perfect esteem enlivened by desire

Ineffable, and sympathy of soul;
 Thought meeting thought, and will preventing will,
 With boundless confidence: for nought but love 1121
 Can answer love, and render bliss secure.
 Let him, ungenerous, who, alone intent
 To bless himself, from fordid parents buys
 The loathing virgin, in eternal care, 1125
 Well-merited, consume his nights and days:
 Let barbarous nations, whose inhuman love
 Is wild desire, fierce as the suns they feel;
 Let eastern tyrants, from the light of Heaven
 Seclude their bosom slaves, meanly possess'd 1130
 Of a mere, lifeless, violated form:
 While those whom love cements in holy faith,
 And equal transport, free as Nature live,
 Disdaining fear. What is the world to them,
 Its pomp, its pleasure, and its nonsense all! 1135
 Who in each other clasp whatever fair
 High fancy forms, and lavish hearts can wish;
 Something than beauty dearer, should they look
 Or on the mind, or mind-illumin'd face;
 Truth, goodness, honour, harmony, and love 1140
 The richest bounty of indulgent HEAVEN.
 Meantime a smiling offspring rises round,
 And mingles both their graces. By degrees,
 The human blossom blows; and every day,
 Soft as it rolls along, shews some new charm, 1145
 The father's lustre, and the mother's bloom.
 The infant reason grows apace, and calls
 For the kind hand of an assiduous care.

Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot, 1150
To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
To breathe th' enlivening spirit, and to fix
The generous purpose in the glowing breast.
Oh speak the joy! ye, whom the sudden tear
Surprizes often, while you look around. 1155
And nothing strikes your eye but sights of bliss,
All various Nature pressing on the heart;
An elegant sufficiency, content,
Retirement, rural quiet, friendship, books,
Ease and alternate labour, useful life, 1160
Progressive virtue, and approving HEAVEN.
These are the matchless joys of virtuous love;
And thus their moments fly. The Seasons thus,
As ceaseless round a jarring world they roll,
Still find them happy; and consenting SPRING 1165
Sheds her own rosy garland on their heads:
'Till evening comes at last, serene and mild;
When after the long vernal day of life,
Enamour'd more, as more remembrance swells
With many a proof of recollected love, 1170
Together down they sink in social sleep;
Together freed, their gentle spirits fly
To scenes where love and bliss immortal reign.

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S U M M E R.

THE ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Invocation. Address to Mr. DODDINGTON. An introductory reflection on the motion of the heavenly bodies; whence the succession of the seasons. As the face of Nature in this season is almost uniform, the progress of the poem is a description of a summer's day. The dawn. Sun-rising. Hymn to the sun. Forenoon. Summer insects described. Hay-making. Sheep-shearing. Noon-day. A woodland retreat. Groups of herds and flocks. A solemn grove: how it affects a contemplative mind. A cataract, and rude scene. View of Summer in the torrid zone. Storm of thunder and lightning. A tale. The storm over, a serene afternoon. Bathing. Hour of walking. Transition to the prospect of a rich well-cultivated country; which introduces a panegyric on GREAT BRITAIN. Sun-set. Evening. Night. Summer meteors. A comet. The whole concluding with the praise of philosophy.

S U M M E R.

FROM brightening fields of ether fair disclos'd,
 Child of the sun, refulgent SUMMER comes,
 In pride of youth, and felt thro' Nature's depth:
 He comes attended by the sultry *hours*,
 And ever-fanning *breezes*, on his way; 5
 While, from his ardent look, the turning SPRING
 Averts her blushful face; and earth, and skies,
 All-smiling, to his hot dominion leaves.

HENCE, let me haste into the mid-wood shade,
 Where scarce a sun-beam wanders thro' the gloom; 10
 And on the dark green grass, beside the brink
 Of haunted stream, that by the roots of oak
 Rolls o'er the rocky channel, lie at large,
 And sing the glories of the circling year.

COME, *Inspiration!* from thy hermit-seat, 15
 By mortal seldom found: may Fancy dare,
 From thy fix'd serious eye, and raptur'd glance
 Shot on surrounding Heaven, to steal one look
 Creative of the Poet, every power
 Exalting to an ecstasy of soul. 20

AND thou, my youthful Muse's early friend,
 In whom the human graces all unite:
 Pure light of mind, and tenderness of heart;

Genius, and wisdom; the gay social sense,
 By decency chastis'd; goodness and wit, 25
 In seldom-meeting harmony combin'd;
 Unblemish'd honour, and an active zeal
 For BRITAIN'S glory, Liberty, and Man;
 O DODINGTON! attend my rural song,
 Stoop to my theme, inspirit every line, 30
 And teach me to deserve thy just applause.

WITH what an awful world-revolving power
 Were first the unwieldy planets launch'd along
 Th' illimitable void! Thus to remain,
 Amid the flux of many thousand years, 35
 That oft has swept the toiling race of Men,
 And all their labour'd monuments away,
 Firm, unremitting, matchless, in their course;
 To the kind temper'd change of night and day,
 And of the seasons ever stealing round, 40
 Minutely faithful: Such TH' ALL-PERFECT HAND!
 That pois'd, impels, and rules the steady WHOLE.

WHEN now no more th' alternate *Twins* are fir'd,
 And *Cancer* reddens with the solar blaze,
 Short is the doubtful empire of the night; 45
 And soon observant of approaching day,
 The meek-ey'd Morn appears, mother of dews,
 At first faint-gleaming in the dappled east:
 Till far o'er ether spreads the widening glow;
 And, from before the lustre of her face, 50
 White break the clouds away, With quickened step,

Brown Night retires: Young Day pours in apace,
 And opens all the lawny prospect wide.
 The dripping rock, the mountain's misty top
 Swell on the sight, and brighten with the dawn. 55
 Blue, thro' the dusk, the smoaking currents shine;
 And from the bladed field the fearful hare
 Limp, awkward: while along the forest glade
 The wild deer trip, and often turning gaze
 At early passenger. Music awakes 60
 The native voice of undissembled joy;
 And thick around the woodland hymns arise.
 Rous'd by the cock, the soon-clad shepherd leaves
 His mossy cottage, where with *Peace* he dwells;
 And from the crowded fold, in order, drives 65
 His flock, to taste the verdure of the morn.

FALSELY luxurious, will not Man awake;
 And, springing from the bed of sloth, enjoy
 The cool, the fragrant, and the silent hour,
 To meditation due and sacred song? 70
 For is there aught in sleep can charm the wise?
 To lie in dead oblivion, losing half
 The fleeting moments of too short a life;
 Total extinction of th' enlightened soul!
 Or else to feverish vanity alive, 75
 Wildered, and tossing thro' distemper'd dreams?
 Who would in such a gloomy state remain
 Longer than Nature craves; when every Muse
 And every blooming pleasure wait without,
 To bless the wildy-devious morning-walk? 80

BUT yonder comes the powerful King of Day,
 Rejoicing in the east. The lessening cloud,
 The kindling azure, and the mountain's brow
 Illum'd with fluid gold, his near approach
 Betoken glad. Lo; now, apparent all, 85
 Assant the dew-bright earth, and coloured air,
 He looks in boundless majesty abroad;
 And sheds the shining day, that burnish'd plays
 On rocks, and hills, and towers, and wandering streams,
 High-gleaming from afar. Prime chearer Light! 90
 Of all material beings first, and best!
 Efflux divine! Nature's resplendent robe!
 Without whose vesting beauty all were wrapt
 In unessential gloom; and thou, O Sun!
 Soul of surrounding worlds! in whom best seen 95
 Shines out thy Maker! may I sing of thee?

'TIS by thy secret strong, attractive force,
 As with a chain indissoluble bound,
 Thy System rolls entire: from the far bourne
 Of utmost *Saturn*, wheeling wide his round 100
 Of thirty years; to *Mercury*, whose disk
 Can scarce be caught by philosophic eye,
 Lost in the near effulgence of thy blaze.

INFORMER of the planetary train!
 Without whose quickening glance their cumbrous orbs
 Were brute unlovely mafs, inert and dead, 106
 And not, as now, the green abodes of life!
 How many forms of being wait on thee,

Inhaling spirit; from th' unfettered mind,
 By thee sublim'd, down to the daily race, 110
 The mixing myriads of thy setting beam.

THE vegetable world is also thine,
 Parent of *Seasons*! who the pomp precede
 That waits thy throne, as thro' thy vast domain,
 Annual, along the bright ecliptic road, 115
 In world-rejoicing state, it moves sublime.
 Mean-time th' expecting nations, circled gay
 With all the various tribes of foodful earth,
 Implore thy bounty, or send grateful up
 A common hymn: while, round thy beaming car, 120
 High-seen, the *Seasons* lead, in sprightly dance
 Harmonious knit, the rosy-finger'd *Hours*,
 The *Zephyrs* floating loose, the timely *Rains*,
 Of bloom ethereal the light-footed *Dews*,
 And softened into joy the surly *Storms*. 125
 These, in successive turn, with lavish hand,
 Shower every beauty, every fragrance shower,
 Herbs, flowers, and fruits; till, kindling at thy touch,
 From land to land is flush'd the vernal year.

NOR to the surface of enliven'd earth, 130
 Graceful with hills and dales, and leafy woods,
 Her liberal tresses, is thy force confin'd:
 But, to the howel'd cavern darting deep,
 The mineral kinds confess thy mighty power,
 Effulgent, hence the veiny marble shines; 135
 Hence Labour draws his tools; hence burnish'd War

Gleams on the day; the nobler works of Peace
Hence bless mankind, and generous Commerce binds
The round of nations in a golden chain.

THE unfruitful rock itself, impregn'd by thee, 140
In dark retirement forms the lucid stone.
The lively Diamond drinks thy purest rays,
Collected light, compact; that, polish'd bright,
And all its native lustre let abroad,
Dares, as it sparkles on the fair-one's breast, 145
With vain ambition emulate her eyes.
At thee the Ruby lights its deepening glow,
And with a waving radiance inward flames.
From thee the Sapphire, solid ether, takes
Its hue cerulean; and of evening tinct, 150
The purple-streaming Amethyst is thine.
With thy own smile the yellow Topaz burns.
Nor deeper verdure dyes the robe of Spring,
When first she gives it to the southern gale,
Than the green Emerald shows. But, all combin'd, 155
Thick thro' the whitening Opal play thy beams;
Or, flying several from its surface, form
A trembling variance of revolving hues,
As the fire varies in the gazer's hand.

THE very dead creation, from thy touch, 160
Assumes a mimic life. By thee refin'd,
In brighter mazes the reluctant stream
Plays o'er the mead. The precipice abrupt,
Projecting horror on the blackened flood,

Softens at thy return. The desert joys 165
Wildly, thro' all his melancholy bounds.
Rude ruins glitter; and the briny deep,
Seen from some pointed promontory's top,
Far to the blue horizon's utmost verge,
Restless, reflects a floating gleam. But this, 170
And all the much-transported Muse can sing,
Are to thy beauty, dignity, and use,
Unequal far; great delegated source
Of light, and life, and grace, and joy below!

How shall I then attempt to sing of HIM! 175
Who, LIGHT HIMSELF, in uncreated light
Invested deep, dwells awfully retir'd
From mortal eye, or angel's purer ken;
Whose single smile has, from the first of time,
Fill'd, overflowing, all those lamps of Heaven, 180
That beam for ever thro' the boundless sky:
But, should he hide his face, th' astonish'd sun,
And all th' extinguish'd stars, would loosening reel
Wide from their spheres, and Chaos come again.

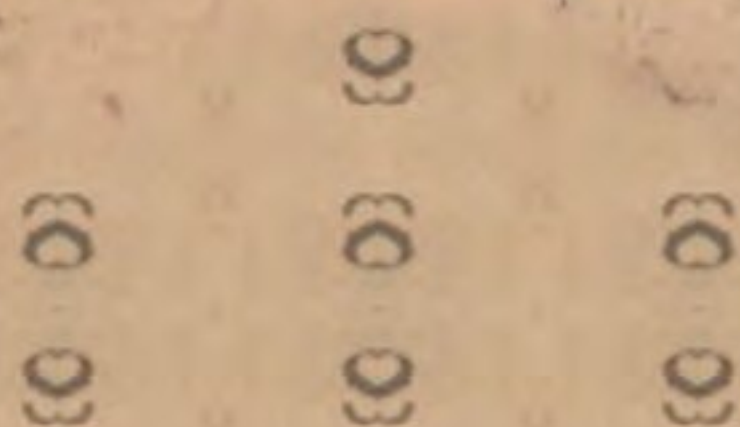
AND yet was every faltering tongue of Man, 185
ALMIGHTY FATHER! silent in thy praise;
Thy works themselves would raise a general voice,
Even in the depth of solitary woods
By human foot untrod; proclaim thy power,
And to the quire celestial THEE resound, 190
Th' eternal cause, support, and end of all!

To me be Nature's volume broad-display'd;
 And to peruse its all-instructing page,
 Or, haply catching inspiration thence,
 Some easy passage, raptur'd, to translate, 195
 My sole delight; as thro' the falling glooms
 Pensive I stray, or with the rising dawn
 On Fancy's eagle-wing excursive soar,

Now, flaming up the heavens, the potent sun
 Melts into limpid air the high-rais'd clouds, 200
 And morning fogs, that hovered round the hills
 In party-colour'd bands; till wide unveil'd
 The face of Nature shines, from where earth seems,
 Far-stretch'd around, to meet the bending sphere.

HALF in a blush of clustering roses lost, 205
 Dew-dropping *Coolness* to the shade retires;
 There, on the verdant turf, or flowery bed,
 By gelid founts and careless rills to muse;
 While tyrant *Heat*, disspreading thro' the sky,
 With rapid sway, his burning influence darts 210
 On Man, and beast, and herb, and tepid stream.

WHO can un pitying see the flowery race,
 Shed by the morn, their new-flush'd bloom resign,
 Before the parching beam? So fade the fair,
 When fevers revel thro' their azure veins, 215
 But one, the lofty follower of the sun,
 Sad when he sets, shuts up her yellow leaves,
 Drooping all night; and, when he warm returns,



Points her enamour'd bosom to his ray.

HOME, from his morning task, the swain retreats;
His flock before him stepping to the fold: 221

While the full-udder'd mother lows around
The chearful cottage, then expecting food,
The food of innocence, and health! The daw,
The rook and magpie, to the grey-grown oaks 225

That the calm village in their verdant arms,
Sheltering, embrace, direct their lazy flight;
Where on the mingling boughs they sit embower'd,
All the hot noon, till cooler hours arise.

Faint, underneath, the household fowls convene; 230

And, in a corner of the buzzing shade,
The house-dog, with the vacant greyhound, lies,
Out-stretch'd, and sleepy. In his slumbers one
Attacks the nightly thief, and one exults

O'er hill and dale; till, wakened by the wasp, 235

They starting snap. Nor shall the Muse disdain
To let the little noisy summer-race

Live in her lay, and flutter thro' her song:

Not mean tho' simple; to the sun ally'd,

From him they draw their animating fire. 240

WAK'D by his warmer ray, the reptile young

Come wing'd abroad; by the light air upborn,

Lighter, and full of soul. From every chink,

And secret corner, where they slept away

The wintry storms; or rising from their tombs, 245

To higher life; by myriads, forth at once,

Swarming they pour; of all the vary'd hues
 Their beauty beaming parent can disclose.
 Ten thousand forms! ten thousand different tribes!
 People the blaze. To sunny waters some 250
 By fatal instinct fly; where on the pool
 They, sportive, wheel; or, sailing down the stream,
 Are snatch'd immediate by the quick-ey'd trout,
 Or darting salmon. Thro' the green-wood glade
 Some love to stray; there lodg'd, amus'd and fed, 255
 In the fresh leaf. Luxurious, others make
 The meads their joice, and visit every flower,
 And every latent herb: for the sweet task,
 To propagate their kinds, and where to wrap,
 In what soft beds, their young yet undisclos'd, 260
 Employs their tender care. Some to the house,
 The fold, and dairy, hungry, bend their flight;
 Sip round the pail, or taste the curdling cheese:
 Oft, inadvertent, from the milky stream
 They meet their fate; or, weltering in the bowl, 265
 With powerless wings around them wrapt, expire.

BUT chief to heedless flies the window proves
 A constant death; where, gloomily retir'd,
 The villain spider lives, cunning, and fierce,
 Mixture abhor'd! Amid a mangled heap 270
 Of carcasses, in eager watch he sits,
 O'erlooking all his waving snares around.
 Near the dire cell the dreadless wanderer oft
 Passes, as oft the ruffian shows his front;
 The prey at last ensnar'd, he dreadful darts, 275

With rapid glide, along the leaning line;
 And, fixing in the wretch his cruel fangs,
 Strikes backward grimly pleas'd; the fluttering wing,
 And shriller sound declare extreme distress,
 And ask the helping hospitable hand. 280

RESOUNDS the living surface of the ground;
 Nor undelightful is the ceaseless hum,
 To him who muses thro' the woods at noon;
 Or drowsy shepherd, as he lies reclin'd,
 With half-shut eyes, beneath the floating shade 285
 Of willows grey, close crouding o'er the brook,

GRADUAL, from these what numerous kinds descend,
 Evading even the microscopic eye!
 Full Nature swarms with life; one wondrous mass
 Of animals, or atoms organiz'd, 290
 Waiting the *vital Breath*, when PARENT-HEAVEN
 Shall bid his spirit blow. The hoary fen,
 In putrid steams, emits the living cloud
 Of pestilence. Thro' subterranean cells,
 Where searching sun-beams scarce can find a way, 295
 Earth animated heaves. The flowery leaf
 Wants not its soft inhabitants. Secure,
 Within its winding citadel, the stone
 Holds multitudes. But chief the forest-boughs,
 That dance unnumber'd to the playful breeze, 300
 The downy orchard, and the melting pulp
 Of mellow fruit, the nameless nations feed
 Of evanescent insects. Where the pool

Stands mantled o'er with green, invifible,
 Amid the floating verdure millions stray. 305
 Each liquid too, whether it pierces, foother,
 Inflames, refrefhes, or exalts the tafte,
 With various forms abounds. Nor is the fream
 Of pureft crystal, nor the lucid air,
 Tho' one transparent vacancy it feems, 310
 Void of their unfeen people. Thefe, conceal'd
 By the kind art of forming HEAVEN, efcape
 The groffer eye of Man: for, if the worlds
 In worlds inclos'd fhould on his fenses burft,
 From cates ambrofial, and the nectar'd bowl, 315
 He would abhorrent turn; and in dead night,
 When f Silence fleeps o'er all, be ftun'd with noife.

LET no prefuming impious railer tax
 CREATIVE WISDOM, as if aught was form'd
 In vain, or not for admirable ends. 320
 Shall little haughty ignorance pronounce
 His works unwife, of which the fmalleft part
 Exceeds the narrow vifion of her mind?
 As if upon a full proportion'd dome,
 On fwelling columns heav'd, the pride of art! 325
 A critic-fly, whose feeble ray fcarce fpreads
 An inch around, with blind prefumption bold,
 Should dare to tax the ftructure of the whole.
 And lives the Man, whose univerfal eye
 Has fwep't at once th' unbounded fcheme of things; 330
 Mark'd their dependance fo, and firm accord,
 As with unfaltering accent to conclude

That *This* availeth nought? Has any seen
The mighty chain of beings, lessening down
From INFINITE PERFECTION to the brink 335
Of dreary *Nothing*, desolate abyss!
From which astonish'd thought, recoiling, turns?
Till then alone let zealous praise ascend,
And hymns of holy wonder, to that POWER,
Whose wisdom shines as lovely on our minds, 340
As on our smiling eyes his servant-san.

THICK in yon stream of light, a thousand ways,
Upward, and downward, thwarting, and convolv'd,
The quivering nations sport; till, tempest-wing'd,
Fierce Winter sweeps them from the face of day. 345
Even so luxurious Men, unheeding, pass
An idle summer life in fortune's shine,
A season's glitter! Thus they flutter on
From toy to toy, from vanity to vice;
Till, blown away by death, oblivion comes 350
Behind, and strikes them from the book of life.

Now swarms the village o'er the jovial mead:
The rustic youth, brown with meridian toil,
Healthful and strong; full as the summer-rose
Blown by prevailing suns, the ruddy maid, 355
Half naked, swelling on the sight, and all
Her kindled graces burning o'er her cheek,
Even stooping age is here; and infant-hands
Trail the long rake, or, with the fragrant load
O'ercharg'd, amid the kind oppression roll, 360

Wide flies the tedded grain; all in a row
 Advancing broad, or wheeling round the field,
 They spread the breathing harvest to the sun,
 That throws refreshful round a rural smell:
 Or, as they rake the green-appearing ground, 365
 And drive the dusky wave along the mead,
 The ruffet hay-cock rises thick behind,
 In order gay. While heard from dale to dale,
 Waking the breeze, resounds the blended voice
 Of happy labour, love, and social glee. 370

Or rushing thence, in one diffusive band,
 They drive the troubled flocks, by many a dog
 Compell'd, to where the mazy-running brook
 Forms a deep pool; this bank abrupt and high,
 And That fair-spreading in a pebbled shore, 375
 Urg'd to the giddy brink, much is the toil,
 The clamour much, of men, and boys, and dogs,
 Ere the soft fearful people to the flood
 Commit their woolly sides. And oft the swain,
 On some impatient seizing, hurls them in: 380
 Embolden'd then, nor hesitating more,
 Fast, fast, they plunge amid the flashing wave,
 And panting labour to the farthest shore,
 Repeated this, till deep the well-wash'd fleece
 Has drunk the flood, and from his lively haunt 385
 The trout is banish'd by the sordid stream;
 Heavy, and dripping, to the breezy brow
 Slow move the harmless race: where, as they spread
 Their swelling treasures to the sunny ray,

Inly disturb'd, and wondering what this wild 390
Outrageous tumult means, their loud complaints
The country fill; and, tofs'd from rock to rock,
Incessant bleatings run around the hills.

At last, of snowy white, the gathered flocks
Are in the wattled pen innumeros pres'd, 395
Head above head: and, rang'd in lusty rows
The shepherds sit, and whet the founding shears.

The housewife wait to roll her fleecy stores,
With all her gay-drest maids attending round.
One, chief, in gracious dignity enthron'd, 400

Shines o'er the rest, the pastoral queen, and rays
Her smiles, sweet beaming, on her shepherd-king;
While the glad circle round them yield their souls
To festive mirth, and wit that knows no gall.

Meantime, their joyous task goes on apace: 405

Some mingling stir the melted tar, and some,
Deep on the new-thorn vagrant's heaving side,
To stamp his master's cypher ready stand;
Others th' unwilling wether drag along;

And, glorying in his might, the sturdy boy 410

Holds by the twisted horns th' indignant ram.

Behold where bound, and of its robe bereft,

By needy Man, that all-depending lord,

How meek, how patient, the mild creature lies!

What softness in its melancholy face, 415

What dumb complaining innocence appears!

Fear not, ye gentle tribes, 'tis not the knife

Of horrid slaughter that is o'er you wav'd;

No, 'tis the tender swain's well-guided shears,

Who having now, to pay his annual care, 420
 Borrowed your fleece, to you a cumbrous load,
 Will send you bounding to your hills again.

A SIMPLE scene! yet hence BRITANNIA sees
 Her solid grandeur rise: hence she commands
 Th' exalted stores of every brighter clime, 425
 The treasures of the Sun without his rage:
 Hence, fervent all, with culture, toil, and arts,
 Wide glows her land: her dreadful thunder hence
 Rides o'er the waves sublime, and now, even now,
 Impending hangs o'er *Gallia's* humbled coast; 430
 Hence rules the circling deep, and awes the world.

'Tis raging Noon; and, vertical, the Sun
 Darts on the head direct his forceful rays.
 O'er heaven and earth, far as the ranging eye
 Can sweep, a dazzling deluge reigns; and all 435
 From pole to pole is undistinguish'd blaze.
 In vain the sight, dejected to the ground,
 Stoops for relief; thence hot ascending steams
 And keen reflection pain. Deep to the root
 Of vegetation parch'd, the cleaving fields 440
 And slippery lawn an arid hue disclose,
 Blast Fancy's blooms, and wither even the Soul.
 Echo no more returns the chearful sound
 Of sharpening scythe: the mower sinking heaps
 O'er him the humid hay, with flowers perfum'd; 445
 And scarce a chirping grass-hopper is heard
 Thro' the dumb mead. Distressful Nature pants.

The very streams look languid from afar;
Or, thro' th' unshelter'd glade, impatient, seem
To hurl into the covert of the grove. 450

ALL-CONQUERING Heat, oh intermit thy wrath!
And on my throbbing temples potent thus
Beam not so fierce! Incessant still you flow,
And still another fervent flood succeeds,
Pour'd on the head profuse. In vain I sigh, 455
And restless turn, and look around for Night;
Night is far off; and hotter hours approach.
Thrice happy he! who on the sunless side
Of a romantic mountain, forest-crown'd,
Beneath the whole collected shade reclines: 460
Or in the gelid caverns, woodbine-wrought,
And fresh bedew'd with ever-spouting streams,
Sits coolly calm; while all the world without,
Unsatisfied, and sick, tosses in noon.
Emblem instructive of the virtuous Man, 465
Who keeps his temper'd mind serene, and pure
And every passion aptly harmoniz'd,
Amid a jarring world with vice inflam'd.

WELCOME, ye shades! ye bowery thickets, hail!
Ye lofty pines! ye venerable oaks! 470
Ye ashes wild, resounding o'er the steep!
Delicious is your shelter to the soul,
As to the hunted hart the fallying spring,
Or stream full-flowing, that his swelling fides
Laves, as he floats along the herbag'd brink. 475

Cool, thro' the nerves, your pleasing comfort glides;
 The heart beats glad; the fresh-expanded eye
 And ear resume their watch; the sinews knit;
 And life shoots swift thro' all the lightened limbs.

AROUND th' adjoining brook, that purls along 480
 The vocal grove, now fretting o'er a rock,
 Now scarcely moving thro' a reedy pool,
 Now starting to a sudden stream, and now
 Gently diffus'd into a limpid plain;
 A various groupe the herds and flocks compose, 485
 Rural confusion! On the grassy bank
 Some ruminating lie; while others stand
 Half in the flood, and often bending sip
 The circling surface. In the middle droops
 The strong laborious ox, of honest front, 490
 Which incompas'd he shakes; and from his sides
 The troublous insects lashes with his tail,
 Returning still. Amid his subjects safe,
 Slumbers the monarch swain; his careless arm
 Thrown round his head, on downy moss sustain'd; 495
 Here laid is scrip, with wholesome viands fill'd;
 There, listening every noise, his watchful dog.

LIGHT fly his slumbers, if perchance a flight
 Of angry gad flies fasten on the herd;
 That startling scatters from the shallow brook, 500
 In search of lavish stream. Tossing the foam,
 They scorn the keeper's voice, and scour the plain,
 Thro' all the bright severity of noon;

While, from their labouring breasts, a hollow moan
Proceeding, runs low-bellowing round the hills. 505

OFT in this season too the horse, provok'd,
While his big sinews full of spirits swell,
Trembling with vigour, in the heat of blood,
Springs the high fence; and, o'er the field effus'd,
Darts on the gloomy flood, with steadfast eye, 510
And heart estranged to fear: his nervous chest,
Luxuriant, and erect, the seat of strength!
Bears down th' opposing stream: quenchless his thirst;
He takes the river at redoubled draughts;
And with wide nostrils, snorting, skims the wave. 515

STILL let me pierce into the midnight depth
Of yonder grove, of wildest largest growth:
That, forming high in air a woodland quire,
Nods o'er the mount beneath. At every step,
Solemn, and slow, the shadows blacker fall, 520
And all is awful listening gloom around.

THESE are the haunts of Meditation, these
The scenes where ancient bards th' inspiring breath,
Extatic, felt; and, from this world retir'd,
Convers'd with angels, and immortal forms, 525
On gracious errands bent: to save the fall
Of virtue struggling on the brink of vice;
In waking whispers, and repeated dreams,
To hint pure thought, and warn the favour'd soul
For future trials fated to prepare; 530

To prompt the poet, who devoted gives
 His muse to better themes; to soothe the pangs
 Of dying worth, and from the patriot's breast,
 (Backward to mingle in detested war,
 But foremost when engag'd) to turn the death; 535
 And numberless such offices of love,
 Daily, and nightly, zealous to perform.

SHOOK sudden from the bosom of the sky,
 A thousand shapes or glide along the dusk,
 Or stalk majestic on. Deep-rous'd, I feel 540
 A sacred terror, a severe delight,
 Creep thro' my mortal frame; and thus, methinks,
 A voice, than human more, th' abstracted ear
 Of fancy strikes. "Be not of us afraid,
 "Poor kindred Man! thy fellow-creatures, we 545
 "From the same PARENT-POWER our beings drew,
 "The same our Lord, and laws, and great pursuit.
 "Once some of us, like thee, thro' stormy life,
 "Toil'd, tempest-beaten, ere we could attain
 "This holy calm, this harmony of mind, 550
 "Where purity and peace immingle charms.
 "Then fear not us; but with responsive song,
 "Amid these dim recesses, undisturb'd
 "By noisy folly and discordant vice,
 "Of Nature sing with us, and Nature's GOD. 555
 "Here frequent, at the visionary hour,
 "When musing midnight reigns or silent noon,
 "Angelic harps are in full concert heard,
 "And voices chaunting from the wood-crown'd hill,

"The deepening dale, or inmost sylvan glade: 560

"A privilege bestow'd by us, alone,

"On contemplation, or the hallow'd ear

"Of Poet, swelling to seraphic strain."

AND art thou, *STANLEY, of that sacred band?

Alas, for us too soon! Tho' rais'd above 565

The reach of human pain, above the flight

Of human joy; yet, with a mingled ray

Of sadly pleas'd remembrance, must thou feel

A mother's love, a mother's tender woe:

Who seeks thee still, in many a former scene; 570

Seeks thy fair form, thy lovely-beaming eyes,

Thy pleasing converse, by gay lively sense

Inspir'd: where moral wisdom mildly shone,

Without the toil of art; and virtue glow'd,

In all her smiles, without forbidding pride. 575

But, O thou best of parents! wipe thy tears!

Or rather to PARENTAL NATURE pay

The tears of grateful joy, who for a while

Lent thee this younger self, this opening bloom

Of thy enlightened mind and gentle worth. 580

Believe the Muse; the wintry blast of death

Kills not the buds of virtue; no, they spread,

Beneath the heavenly beam of brighter suns,

Thro' endless ages, into higher powers.

* A young lady, well known to the author, who died at the age of eighteen; in the year 1738.

THUS up the mount, in airy vision rapt, 585
 I stray, regardless whither; till the sound
 Of a near fall of water every sense
 Wakes from the charm of thought: swift-shrinking back,
 I check my steps, and view the broken scene.

SMOOTH to the shelving brink a copious flood 590
 Rolls fair, and placid; where collected all,
 In one impetuous torrent, down the steep
 It thundering shoots, and shakes the country round.
 At first, an azure sheet, it rushes broad;
 Then whitening by degrees, as prone it falls, 595
 And from the loud-resounding rocks below
 Dash'd in a cloud of foam, it sends aloft
 A hoary mist, and forms a ceaseless shower.
 Nor can the tortur'd wave here find repose:
 But, raging still amid the shaggy rocks, 600
 Now flashes o'er the scatter'd fragments, now
 Assant the hollowed channel rapid darts;
 And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,
 With wild infracted course, and lessened roar,
 It gains a safer bed, and steals, at last, 605
 Along the mazes of the quiet vale.

INVITED from the cliff, to whose dark brow
 He clings, the steep-ascending eagle soars,
 With upward pinions thro' the flood of day;
 And, giving full his bosom to the blaze, 610
 Gains on the sun; while all the tuneful race
 Smit by afflictive noon, disorder'd droop,

△ (m) ; ∇ (m) ;
 △ (w) ; △ (w) ; △ (w) ;

1 ; ∇ (m) ; ∇ (m) ; ∇ (m) ;

Deep in the thicket; or, from bower to bower
Responsive, force an interrupted strain.

The stock-dove only thro' the forest cooes, 615

Mournfully hoarse; oft ceasing from his plaint,

Short interval of weary woe! again

The sad idea of his murder'd mate,

Struck from his side by savage fowler's guile,

Across his fancy comes; and then resounds 620

A louder song of sorrow thro' the grove.

BESIDE the dewy border let me sit,

All in the freshness of the humid air;

There in that hollowed rock, grotesque and wild,

An ample chair moss-lin'd, and o'er head 625

By flowering umbrage shaded; where the bee

Strays diligent, and with th'extracted balm

Of fragrant woodbine loads his little thigh.

Now, while I taste the sweetness of the shade,

While Nature lies around deep-lull'd in Noon, 630

Now come, bold *Fancy*, spread a daring flight,

And view the wonders of the *torrid Zone*:

Climes unrelenting! with whose rage compar'd,

Yon blaze is feeble, and yon skies are cool.

SEE, how at once the bright-effulgent sun, 635

Rising direct, swift chases from the sky

The short-liv'd twilight; and with ardent blaze

Looks gayly fierce thro' all the dazzling air:

He mounts his throne; but kind before him sends,

Issuing from out the portals of the morn, 640
 The * *general Breeze*, to mitigate his fire,
 And breathe refreshment on a fainting world.
 Great are the scenes, with dreadful beauty crown'd
 And barbarous wealth, that see, each circling year,
Returning suns and ** *double seasons* pass: 645
 Rocks rich in gems, and mountains big with mines,
 That on the high equator ridgy rise,
 Whence many a bursting stream auriferous plays:
 Majestic woods, of every vigorous green,
 Stage above stage, high waving o'er the hills; 650
 Or to the far horizon wide diffus'd,
 A boundless deep immensity of shade.
 Here lofty trees, to ancient song unknown,
 The noble sons of potent heat and floods
 Prone-rushing from the clouds rear, high to Heaven 655
 Their thorny stems, and broad around them throw
 Meridian gloom. Here, in eternal prime,
 Unnumber'd fruits, of keen delicious taste
 And vital spirit, drink amid the cliffs,
 And burning sands that bank the shrubby vales, 660
 Redoubled day, yet in their rugged coats

* Which blows constantly between the tropics from the east, or
 the collateral points, the north-east and south-east: caused by the
 pressure of the rarefied air on that before it, according to the diurnal
 motion of the sun from east to west.

** In all climates between the tropics, the sun, as he passes and re-
 passes in his annual motion, is twice a-year vertical, which produces
 this effect.

A friendly juice to cool its rage contain.

BEAR me, *Pomona*! to thy citron groves;
To where the lemon and the piercing lime,
With the deep orange, glowing thro' the green, 665
Their lighter glories blend. Lay me reclin'd
Beneath the spreading tamarind that shakes,
Fann'd by the breeze, its fever-cooling fruit.
Deep in the night the massy locust sheds,
Quench my hot limbs; or lead me thro' the maze, 670
Embowering endless, of the *Indian* fig;
Or thrown at gayer ease, on some fair brow,
Let me behold, by breezy murmurs cool'd,
Broad o'er my head the verdant cedar wave,
And high palmetos lift their graceful shade. 675
O stretch'd amid these orchards of the sun,
Give me to drain the cocoa's milky bowl,
And from the palm to draw its freshening wine!
More bounteous far than all the frantic juice
Which *Bacchus* pours. Nor, on its slender twigs 680
Low-bending, be the full pomegranate scorn'd;
Nor, creeping thro' the woods, the gelid race
Of berries. Oft in humble station dwells
Unboastful worth, above fastidious pomp.
Witness, thou best *Anâna*, thou the pride 685
Of vegetable life, beyond whate'er
The poets imag'd in the golden age:
Quick let me strip thee of thy tufty coat,
Spread thy ambrosial stores, and feast with *Jove*!

FROM these the prospect varies. Plains immense 690
 Lie stretch'd below, interminable meads,
 And vast savannahs, where the wandering eye,
 Unfixt, is in a verdant ocean lost.
 Another *Flora* there, of bolder hues,
 And richer sweets, beyond our garden's pride, 695
 Plays o'er the fields, and showers with sudden hand
 Exuberant spring; for of these valleys shift
 Their green-embroider'd robe to fiery brown,
 And swift to green again, as scorching suns,
 Or streaming dew and torrent rains, prevail. 700

ALONG these lonely regions, where retir'd
 From little scenes of art, great *Nature* dwells
 In awful solitude, and nought is seen
 But the wild herds that own no master's stall,
 Prodigious rivers roll their fatning seas: 705
 On whose luxuriant herbage, half conceal'd,
 Like a fall'n cedar, far diffus'd his train,
 Cas'd in green scales, the crocodile extends.
 The flood disparts: behold! in plaited mail
 * Behemoth rears his head. Glanc'd from his side 710
 The darted steel in idle shivers flies:
 He fearless walks the plain, or seeks the hills;
 Where, as he crops his varied fare, the herds,
 In widening circle round, forget their food,
 And at the harmless stranger wondering gaze. 715

* The Hippopotamus, or river-horse.

PEACEFUL, beneath primeval trees, that cast
 Their ample shade o'er *Niger's* yellow stream,
 And where the *Ganges* rolls his sacred wave;
 Or mid the central depth of blackening woods,
 High-rais'd in solemn theatre around, 720
 Leans the huge elephant: wisest of brutes!
 O truly wise! with gentle might endow'd,
 Tho' powerful, not destructive! Here he sees
 Revolving ages sweep the changeful earth,
 And empires rise and fall; regardless he 725
 Of what the never-resting race of Men
 Project: thrice happy! could he 'scape their guile,
 Who mine, from cruel avarice, his steps;
 Or with his towery grandeur swell their state,
 The pride of kings! or else his strength pervert, 730
 And bid him rage amid the mortal fray,
 Astonish'd at the madness of mankind.

WIDE o'er the winding umbrage of the floods,
 Like vivid blossoms glowing from afar,
 Thick-swarm the brighter birds. Nor Nature's hand, 735
 That with a sportive vanity has deck'd
 The plummy nations, there her gayest hues
 Profusely pours. * But, if she bids them shine,
 Array'd in all the beauteous beams of day,
 Yet frugal still, she humbles them in song. 740

* In all the regions of the torrid zone, the birds, tho' more
 beautiful in their plumage, are observed to be less melodious
 than ours.

Nor envy we the gaudy robes they lent
Proud *Montezuma's* realm, whose legions cast
A boundless radiance waving on the sun,
While *Philomel* is ours; while in our shades,
Thro' the soft silence of the listening night, 745
The sober-suited songstresses trills her lay.

BUT come, my *Muse*, the desert-barrier burst,
A wild expanse of lifeless sand and sky:
And, swifter than the toiling caravan,
Shoot o'er the vale of *Sennar*; ardent climb 750
The *Nubian* mountains, and the secret bounds
Of jealous *Abyssinia* boldly pierce.
Thou art no ruffian, who beneath the mask
Of social commerce com'st to rob their wealth;
No *holy Fury* thou, blaspheming HEAVEN, 755
With consecrated steel to stab their peace,
And thro' the land, yet red from civil wounds,
To spread the purple tyranny of *Rome*.
Thou, like the harmless bee, may'st freely range,
From mead to mead bright with exalted flowers, 760
From jasmine grove to grove, may'st wander gay,
Thro' palmy shades and aromatic woods,
That grace the plains, invest the peopled hills,
And up the more than Alpine mountains wave.
There on the breezy summit, spreading fair, 765
For many a league; or on stupendous rocks,
That from the sun-redoubling valley lift,
Cool to the middle air, their lawny tops;
Where palaces, and fanes, and villas rise;

And gardens smile around, and cultur'd fields; 779
And fountains gush; and careless herds and flocks
Securely stray; a world within itself,
Disdaining all assault: there let me draw
Ethereal soul, there drink reviving gales,
Profusely breathing from the spicy groves, 775
And vales of fragrance; there at distance hear
The roaring floods, and cataracts, that sweep
From disembowel'd earth the virgin gold;
And o'er the varied landskip, restless, rove,
Fervent with life of every fairer kind: 780
A land of wonders! which the sun still eyes
With ray direct, as of the lovely realm
Inamour'd, and delighting there to dwell.

How chang'd the scene! In blazing height of noon,
The sun, oppress'd, is plung'd in thickest gloom. 785
Still Horror reigns, a dreary twilight round,
Of struggling night and day malignant mix'd.
For to the hot equator crouding fast,
Where, highly rarefy'd, the yielding air
Admits their stream, incessant vapours roll, 790
Amazing clouds on clouds continual heap'd;
Or whirl'd tempestuous by the gusty wind,
Or silent borne along, heavy, and slow,
With the big stores of steaming oceans charg'd.
Meantime, amid these upper seas, condens'd 795
Around the cold ærial mountain's brow,
And by conflicting winds together dash'd,
The Thunder holds his black tremendous throne:

From cloud to cloud the rending Lightnings rage;
 Till, in the furious elemental war 800
 Dissolv'd, the whole precipitated mass
 Unbroken floods and solid torrents pours.

THE treasures these, hid from the bounded search
 Of ancient knowledge; whence, with annual pomp,
 Rich king of floods! o'erflows the swelling Nile. 805
 From his two springs, in *Gojam's* sunny realm;
 Pure-welling out, he thro' the lucid lake
 Of fair *Dambea* rolls his infant-stream.
 There, by the Naiads nurs'd, he sports away
 His playful youth, amid the fragrant isles, 810
 That with unfading verdure smile around.
 Ambitious, thence the manly river breaks;
 And gathering many a flood, and copious fed
 With all the mellowed treasures of the sky,
 Winds in progressive majesty along: 815
 Thro' splendid kingdoms now devolves his maze,
 Now wanders wild o'er solitary tracts
 Of life-deserted sand; till, glad to quit
 The joyless desert, down the *Nubian* rocks
 From thundering steep to steep, he pours his urn, 820
 And *Egypt* joys beneath the spreading wave.

HIS brother *Niger* too, and all the floods
 In which the full-form'd maids of *Afric* lave
 Their jetty limbs; and all that from the tract
 Of woody mountains stretch'd thro' gorgeous *Ind* 825
 Fall on *Cormandel's* coast, or *Malabar*;

From * *Menam's* orient stream, that nightly shines
 With insect-lamps, to where Aurora sheds
 On *Indus'* smiling banks the rosy shower:
 All, at this bounteous season, ope their urns, 830
 And pour untoiling harvest o'er the land.

Nor less thy world, COLUMBUS, drinks, refresh'd,
 The lavish moisture of the melting year.
 Wide o'er his isles, the branching *Oronoque*
 Rolls a brown deluge; and the native drives 835
 To dwell aloft on life-sufficing trees,
 At once his dome, his robe, his food, and arms.
 Swell'd by a thousand streams, impetuous hurl'd
 From all the roaring *Andes*, huge descends
 The mighty ** *Orellana*. Scarce the Muse 840
 Dares stretch her wing o'er this enormous mass
 Of rushing water; scarce she dares attempt
 The sea-like *Plata*; to whose dread expanse,
 Continuous depth, and wondrous length of course,
 Our floods are rills. With unabated force, 845
 In silent dignity they sweep along,
 And traverse realms unknown, and blooming wilds,
 And fruitful desarts, worlds of solitude,
 Where the sun smiles and seasons teem in vain,
 Unseen, and unenjoyed. Forfaking these, 850

* The river that runs thro' *Siam*; on whose banks a vast multitude of those insects called *Fire-flies* make a beautiful appearance in the night.

** The river of the *Amazons*.

O'er peopled plains they fair-diffusive flow,
 And many a nation feed, and circle safe,
 In their soft bosom, many a happy isle;
 The seat of blameless *Pan*, yet undisturb'd
 By christian crimes and *Europe's* cruel sons. 855
 Thus pouring on they proudly seek the deep,
 Whose vanquish'd tide, recoiling from the shock,
 Yields to this liquid weight of half the globe;
 And Ocean trembles for his green domain.

BUT what avails this wondrous waste of wealth? 860
 This gay profusion of luxurious blifs?
 This pomp of Nature? what their balmy meads,
 Their powerful herbs, and *Ceres* void of pain?
 By vagrant birds dispers'd, and wafting winds,
 What their unplanted fruits? What the cool draughts,
 Th' ambrosial food, rich gums, and spicy health, 866
 Their forests yield? Their toiling insects what,
 Their silky pride, and vegetable robes?
 Ah! what avail their fatal treasures, hid
 Deep in the bowels of the pitying earth, 870
Golconda's gems, and sad *Potosi's* mines;
 Where dwelt the gentlest children of the sun?
 What all that *Afric's* golden rivers roll,
 Her odorous woods, and shining ivory stores?
 Ill-fated race! the softening arts of Peace, 875
 Whate'er the humanizing Muses teach;
 The godlike wisdom of the temper'd breast;
 Progressive truth, the patient force of thought;
 Investigation calm, whose silent powers

Command the world; the LIGHT that leads to HEA-
VEN; 880

Kind equal rule, the government of laws,
And all-protecting FREEDOM, which alone
Sustains the name and dignity of Man:
These are not theirs. The parent-sun himself
Seems o'er this world of slaves to tyrannize; 885
And, with oppressive ray, the roseat bloom
Of beauty blasting, gives the gloomy hue,
And feature gross; or worse, to ruthless deeds,
Mad jealousy, blind rage, and fell revenge,
Their fervid spirit fires. Love dwells not there, 890
The soft regards, the tenderness of life,
The heart shed tear, th' ineffable delight
Of sweet humanity: these court the beam
Of milder climes; in selfish fierce desire,
And the wild fury of voluptuous sense, 895
There lost. The very brute-creation there
This rage partakes, and burns with horrid fire.

Lo! the green serpent, from his dark abode,
Which even Imagination fears to tread,
At noon forth-issuing, gathers up his train 900
In orbs immense, then, darting out anew,
Seeks the refreshing fount; by which diffus'd,
He throws his folds: and while, with threatening tongue,
And deathful jaws erect, the monster curls
His flaming crest, all other thirst, appall'd, 905
Or shivering flies, or check'd at distance stands,
Nor dares approach. But still more direful he,

The small close-lurking minister of fate,
 Whose high-concocted venom thro' the veins
 A rapid lightning darts, arresting swift 910
 The vital current. Form'd to humble Man,
 This child of vengeful Nature! There, sublim'd
 To fearless lust of blood, the savage race
 Roam, licens'd by the shading hour of guilt,
 And foul misdeed, when the pure day has shut 915
 His sacred eye. The tyger darting fierce
 Impetuous on the prey his glance has doom'd:
 The lively shining leopard, speckled o'er
 With many a spot, the beauty of the waste;
 And, scorning all the taming arts of Man, 920
 The keen hyena, fellest of the fell.
 These, rushing from th' inhospitable woods
 Of *Mauritania*, or the tufted isles,
 That verdant rise amid the *Lybian* wild,
 Innumerable glare around their shaggy king, 925
 Majestic, stalking o'er the printed sand;
 And, with imperious and repeated roars,
 Demand their fated food. The fearful flocks
 Croud near the guardian swain; the nobler herds,
 Where round their lordly bull, in rural ease, 930
 They ruminating lie, with horror hear
 The coming rage. Th' awakened village starts;
 And to her fluttering breast the mother strains
 Her thoughtless infant. From the *Pirate's* den,
 Or stern *Morocco's* tyrant fang escap'd, 935
 The wretch half-wishes for his bonds again:
 While, uproar all, the wilderness resounds,

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From *Atlas* eastward to the frightened *Nile*.

UNHAPPY he! who from the first of joys,
 Society, cut off, is left alone 940
 Amid this world of death. Day after day,
 Sad on the jutting eminence he sits,
 And views the main that ever toils below;
 Still fondly forming in the farthest verge
 Where the round ether mixes with the wave, 945
 Ships, dim-discovered, dropping from the clouds;
 At evening, to the setting sun he turns
 A mournful eye, and down his dying heart
 Sinks helpless; while the wonted roar is up,
 And his continual thro' the tedious night. 950
 Yet here, even here, into these black abodes
 Of monsters, unappall'd, from stooping *Rome*,
 And guilty *Caesar*, LIBERTY retir'd,
 Her CATO following thro' *Numidian* wilds:
 Disdainful of *Campania's* gentle plains, 955
 And all the green delights *Ausonia* pours;
 When for them, she must bend the servile knee,
 And fawning take the splendid robber's boon.

NOR stop the terrors of these regions here.
 Commission'd demons oft, angels of wrath, 960
 Let loose the raging elements. Breath'd hot,
 From all the boundless furnace of the sky,
 And the wide glittering waste of burning sand,
 A suffocating wind the pilgrim smites
 With instant death. Patient of thirst and toil, 965

Son of the desert! even the camel feels,
 Shot through his wither'd heart, the fiery blast.
 Or from the black-red ether, bursting broad,
 Sallies the sudden whirlwind. Strait the sands,
 Commov'd around, in gathering eddies play; 970
 Nearer and nearer still they darkening come;
 Till, with the general all-involving storm
 Swept up, the whole continuous wilds arise;
 And by their noon-day fount dejected thrown,
 Or sunk at night in sad disastrous sleep, 975
 Beneath descending hills, the caravan
 Is buried deep, In *Cairo's* crowded streets
 Th' impatient merchant, wondering, waits in vain,
 And *Mecca* saddens at the long delay.

BUT chief at sea, whose every flexile wave 980
 Obeys the blast, the ærial tumult swells.
 In the dread ocean, undulating wide,
 Beneath the radiant line that girts the globe,
 The circling * Typhon, whirl'd from point to point,
 Exhausting all the rage of all the sky, 985
 And dire ** Ecnephia reign. Amid the heavens,
 Falsely serene, deep in a cloudy † speck
 Compress'd, the mighty tempest brooding dwells:

* *Typhon* and *Ecnephia*, names of particular storms or hurricanes, known only between the tropics.

** Called by sailors the *Ox-eye*, being in appearance at first no bigger.

Of no regard, save to the skilful eye,
 Fiery and foul, the small prognostic hangs 990
 Aloft, or on the promontory's brow
 Musters its force. A faint deceitful calm,
 A fluttering gale, the demon sends before.
 To tempt the spreading sail. Then down at once,
 Precipitant, descends a mingled mass 995
 Of roaring winds, and flame, and rushing floods.
 In wild amazement fix'd the sailor stands.
 Art is too slow: By rapid fate oppress'd,
 His broad-wing'd vessel drinks the whelming tide,
 Hid in the bosom of the black abyss. 1000
 With such mad seas the daring * GAMA fought,
 For many a day, and many a dreadful night,
 Incessant, lab'ring round the *stormy Cape*;
 By bold ambition led, and bolder thirst
 Of gold. For then from ancient gloom emerg'd 1005
 The rising world of trade: the *Genius*, then,
 Of navigation, that, in hopeless sloth,
 Had slumber'd on the vast Atlantic deep,
 For idle ages, starting, heard at last
 The * LUSITANIAN PRINCE; who, HEAV'N-in-
 spir'd, 1010
 To love of useful glory rous'd mankind,
 And in unbounded Commerce mix'd the world.

INCREASING still the terrors of these storms,

* VASCO DE GAMA, the first who sailed round *Africa*, by the *Cape of Good Hope*, to the *East Indies*.

His jaws horrific arm'd with threefold fate,
 Here dwells the direful shark. Lur'd by the scent 1015
 Of steaming crouds, of rank disease, and death,
 Behold! he rushing cuts the briny flood,
 Swift as the gale can bear the ship a long;
 And, from the partners of that cruel trade,
 Which spoils unhappy *Guinea* of her sons, 1020
 Demands his share of prey; demands themselves.
 The stormy fates descend: one death involves
 Tyrants and slaves; when strait, their mangled limbs
 Crashing at once, he dyes the purple seas
 With gore, and riots in the vengeful meal. 1025

WHEN o'er this world, by equinoctial rains
 Flooded immense, looks out the joyless sun,
 And draws the copious stream: from swampy fens,
 Where putrefaction into life ferments,
 And breathes destructive myriads; or from woods,
 Impenetrable shades, recesses foul, 1031
 In vapours rank and blue corruption wrapt,
 Whose gloomy horrors yet no desperate foot
 Has ever dar'd to pierce; then, wasteful, forth
 Walks the dire *Power* of pestilent disease. 1035
 A thousand hideous fiends her course attend,
 Sick Nature blasting, and to heartless woe,
 And feeble desolation, casting down

* DON HENRY, third son to *John* the first, king of *Portugal*. His strong genius to the discovery of new countries was the chief source of all the modern improvements in navigation.

The towering hopes and all the pride of Man,
 Such as, of late, at *Carthageria* quench'd 1040
 The BRITISH fire. You, gallant VERNON, saw
 The miserable scene; you, pitying, saw
 To infant-weakness sunk the warrior's arm;
 Saw the deep-racking pang, the ghastly form,
 The lip pale-quivering, and the beamless eye 1045
 No more with ardour bright: you heard the groans
 Of agonizing ships, from shore to shore;
 Heard, nightly plung'd amid the fullen waves,
 The frequent corse; while on each other fix'd,
 In sad presage, the blank assistants seem'd 1050
 Silent, to ask, whom Fate would next demand.

WHAT need I mention those inclement skies,
 Where, frequent o'er the sickening city, Plague,
 The fiercest child of NEMESIS divine,
 Descends? * From *Ethiopia's* poisoned woods, 1055
 From stifled *Cairo's* filth, and fetid fields
 With locust armies putrefying heap'd,
 This great destroyer sprung. Her awful rage
 The brutes escape: Man is her destin'd prey,
 Intemperate Man! and, o'er his guilty domes, 1060
 She draws a close incumbent cloud of death;
 Uninterrupted by the living winds,
 Forbid to blow a wholesome breeze; and stain'd
 With many a mixture by the sun, suffus'd,

* These are the causes supposed to be the first origin of the
Plague, in Dr. MEAD's elegant book on that subject.

Of angry aspect. Princely wisdom, then, 1065
 Dejects his watchful eye; and from the hand
 Of feeble justice, ineffectual, drop
 The sword and balance: mute the voice of joy,
 And hush'd the clamour of the busy world.
 Empty the streets, with uncouth verdure clad; 1070
 Into the worst of desarts sudden turn'd
 The chearful haunt of Men: unless escap'd
 From the doom'd house, where matchless horror reigns,
 Shut up by barbarous fear, the smitten wretch,
 With frenzy wild, breaks loose; and, loud to heaven
 Screaming, the dreadful policy arraigns, 1076
 Inhuman, and unwise. The sullen door,
 Yet uninfected, on its cautious hinge
 Fearing to turn, abhors society:
 Dependants, friends, relations, Love himself, 1080
 Savag'd by woe, forget the tender tie,
 The sweet engagement of the feeling heart.
 But vain their selfish care: the circling sky,
 The wide enlivening air is full of fate;
 And, struck by turns, in solitary pangs 1085
 They fall, unblest, untended, and unmourn'd.
 Thus o'er the prostrate city black Despair
 Extends her raven wing; while, to complete
 The scene of desolation, stretch'd around,
 The grim guards stand, denying all retreat, 1090
 And give the flying wretch a better death.

MUCH yet remains unsung: the rage intense
 Of brazen-vaulted skies, of iron fields,

U C H O W

H O M C H O M C H O M
 C H O M C H O M C H O M

Where drought and famine starve the blasted year:
 Fir'd by the torch of noon to tenfold rage, 1095
 The infuriate hill that shoots the pillar'd flame;
 And, rous'd within the subterranean world,
 Th' expanding earthquake, that resistles shakes
 Aspiring cities from their solid base,
 And buries mountains in the flaming gulph. 1100
 But 'tis enough; return, my vagrant Muse:
 A nearer scene of horror calls thee home.

BEHOLD, flow-settling o'er the lurid grove
 Unusual darkness broods; and growing gains
 The full possession of the sky, furcharg'd 1105
 With wrathful vapour, from the secret beds,
 Where sleep the mineral generations, drawn.
 Thence Nitre, Sulphur, and the fiery spume
 Of fat Bitumen, steaming on the day,
 With various-tinctur'd trains of latent flame, 1110
 Pollute the sky, and in yon baleful cloud,
 A reddening gloom, a magazine of fate,
 Ferment; till, by the touch ethereal rous'd,
 The dash of clouds, or irritating war
 Of fighting winds, while all is calm below, 1115
 They furious spring. A boding silence reigns,
 Dread thro' the dun expanse; save the dull sound
 That from the mountain, previous to the storm,
 Rolls o'er the muttering earth, disturbs the flood,
 And shakes the forest-leaf without a breath. 1120
 Prone, to the lowest vale, the aërial tribes
 Descend: the tempest-loving raven scarce

Dares wing the dubious dusk. In rueful gaze
 The cattle stand, and on the scowling heavens
 Cast a deploring eye; by Man forfook, **1125**
 Who to the crouded cottage hies him fast,
 Or seeks the shelter of the downward cave.

'Tis listening fear, and dumb amazement all;
 When to the startled eye the sudden glance
 Appears far forth, eruptive thro the cloud; **1130**
 And following flower, in explosion vast,
 The Thunder raises his tremendous voice.
 At first, heard solemn o'er the verge of heaven,
 The tempest growls; but as it nearer comes,
 And rolls its awful burden on the wind, **1135**
 The lightnings flash a larger curve, and more
 The noise astounds: till over head a sheet
 Of livid flame discloses wide; then shuts,
 And opens wider; shuts and opens still
 Expansive, wrapping ether in a blaze. **1140**
 Follows the loosen'd aggravated roar,
 Enlarging, deepening, mingling; peal on peal
 Crush'd horrible, convulsing heaven and earth.

Down comes a deluge of sonorous hail,
 Or prone-descending rain. Wide-rent, the clouds, **1145**
 Pour a whole flood; and yet, its name unquench'd,
 Th' unconquerable lightning struggles through,
 Ragged and fierce, or in red whirling balls,
 And fires the mountains with redoubled rage.
 Black from the stroke, above, the smouldring pine **1150**

Stands a sad shattered trunk ; and, stretch'd below,
 A lifeless groupe the blasted cattle lie :
 Here the soft flocks, with that same harmless look
 They wore alive , and ruminating still
 In fancy's eye ; and there the frowning bull, **1155**
 And ox half-rais'd. Struck on the castled cliff,
 The venerable tower and spiry fane
 Resign their aged pride. The gloomy woods
 Start at the flash, and from their deep recess,
 Wide-flaming out, their trembling inmates shake **1160**
 Amid *Carnarvon's* mountains rages loud
 The repercussive roar : with mighty crush,
 Into the flashing deep , from the rude rocks
 Of *Penmanmaur* heap'd hideous to the sky,
 Tumble the smitten cliffs ; and *Snowden's* peak, **1165**
 Dissolving, instant yields his wintry load.
 Far-seen, the heights of heathy *Cheviot* blaze,
 And *Thule* bellows thro her utmost isles.

GUILT hears appall'd, with deeply troubled thought.
 And yet not always on the guilty head **1170**
 Descends the fated flash. Young *CELADON*
 And his *AMELIA* were a matchless pair ;
 With equal virtue form'd, and equal grace,
 The same, distinguish'd by their sex alone ;
 Hers the mild lustre of the blooming morn, **1175**
 And his the radiance of the risen day.

THEY lov'd : But such their guileless passion was,
 As in the dawn of time inform'd the heart

Of innocence, and undiffembling truth.

'Twas friendship heightened by the mutual wish, 1180

Th' enchanting hope, and sympathetic glow,

Beam'd from the mutual eye. Devoting all

To love, each was to each a dearer self;

Supremely happy in th' awakened power

Of giving joy. Alone, amid the shades, 1185

Still in harmonious intercourse they liv'd

The rural day, and talk'd the flowing heart,

Or sigh'd and look'd unutterable things.

So pass'd their life, a clear united stream,

By care unruffled; till, in evil hour, 1190

The tempest caught them on the tender walk,

Heedless how far, and where its mazes stray'd,

While, with each other blest, creative love

Still bade eternal *Eden* smile around,

Prefaging instant fate her bosom heav'd 1195

Unwonted sighs, and stealing oft a look

Of the big gloom on CELADON her eye

Fell tearful, wetting her disordered cheek.

In vain assuring love, and confidence

In HEAVEN, repress'd her fear; it grew, and shook 1200

Her frame near dissolution. He perceiv'd

Th' unequal conflict, and as angels look

On dying saints, his eyes compassion shed,

With love illumin'd high. "Fear not, he said

"Sweet innocence! thou stranger to offence, 1205

"And inward storm! He, who yon skies involves

"In frowns of darkness, ever smiles on thee

"With kind regard, O'er thee the secret shaft
"That wastes at midnight, or th' undreaded hour
"Of noon, flies harmless: and that very voice, 1210
"Which thunders terror thro' the guilty heart,
"With tongues of seraphs whispers peace to thine.
"'Tis safety to be near thee sure, and thus
"To clasp perfection!" From his void embrace,
Mysterious Heaven! that moment, to the ground, 1215
A blackened corse, was struck the beauteous maid.
But who can paint the lover, as he stood,
Pierc'd by severe amazement, hating life,
Speechless, and fix'd in all the death of woe!
So, faint resemblance! on the marble tomb, 1220
The well-dissembled mourner stooping stands,
For ever silent, and for ever sad.

As from the face of heaven the shattered clouds
Tumultuous rove, th' interminable sky
Sublimer swells, and o'er the world expands 1225
A purer azure. Thro' the lightened air
A higher lustre and a clearer calm,
Diffusive, tremble; while, as if in sign
Of danger past, a glittering robe of joy
Set off abundant by the yellow ray, 1230
Invests the fields; and nature smiles reviv'd.

'Tis beauty all, and grateful song around,
Join'd to the low of kine, and numerous bleat
Of flocks thick-nibbling thro' the clover'd vale.
And shall the hymn be marr'd by thankless Man, 1235

Most-favour'd; who with voice articulate
 Should lead the chorus of this lower world?
 Shall he, so soon forgetful of the hand
 That hush'd the thunder, and serenest the sky,
 Extinguish'd feel that spark the tempest wak'd, 1240
 That sense of powers exceeding far his own,
 Ere yet his feeble heart has lost its fears?

CHEAR'D by the milder beam, the sprightly youth
 Speeds to the well-known pool, whose crystal depth
 A sandy bottom shews. A while he stands 1245
 Gazing th' inverted landskip, half afraid
 To meditate the blue profound below;
 Then plunges headlong down the circling flood.
 His ebon tresses, and his rosy cheek
 Instant emerge; and thro' the obedient wave, 1250
 At each short breathing by his lip repell'd,
 With arms and legs according well, he makes,
 As humour leads, an easy-winding path;
 While, from his polish'd sides, a dewy light
 Effuses on the pleas'd spectators round. 1255

THIS is the purest exercise of health,
 The kind refresher of the summer-heats;
 Nor, when cold Winter keens the brightening flood,
 Would I weak-shivering linger on the brink.
 Thus life redoubles, and is oft preserv'd, 1260
 By the bold swimmer, in the swift illapse
 Of accident disastrous. Hence the limbs
 Knit into force; and the same *Roman* arm,

That rose victorious o'er the conquer'd earth,
First learn'd, while tender, to subdue the wave. 1265
Even, from the body's purity, the mind
Receives a secret sympathetic aid.

CLOSE in the covert of an hazel copse,
Where winded into pleasing solitudes
Runs out the rambling dale, young DAMON sat, 1270
Pensive and pierc'd with love's delightful pangs.
There to the stream that down the distant rocks
Hoarse-murmuring fell, and plaintive breeze that play'd
Among the bending willows, falsely he
Of MUSIDORA'S cruelty complain'd. 1275
She felt his flame; but deep within her breast,
In bashful coyness, or in maiden pride,
The soft return conceal'd; save when it stole
In side-long glances from her downcast eye,
Or from her swelling soul in stifled sighs. 1280
Touch'd by the scene, no stranger to his vows,
He fram'd a melting lay, to try her heart;
And, if an infant passion struggled there,
To call that passion forth. Thrice happy swain!
A lucky chance, that oft decides the fate 1285
Of mighty monarchs, then decided thine.
For lo! conducted by the laughing Loves,
This cool retreat his MUSIDORA sought:
Warm in her cheek the sultry season glow'd;
And, robe'd in loose array, she came to bathe 1290
Her fervent limbs in the refreshing stream.
What shall he do? In sweet confusion lost,

And dubious flutterings, he a while remain'd :
 A pure ingenuous elegance of soul,
 A delicate refinement, known to few, 1295
 Perplex'd his breast, and urg'd him to retire :
 But love forbade. Ye prudes in virtue, say,
 Say, ye severest, what would you have done ?
 Meantime, this fairer nymph than ever blest
Arcadian stream, with timid eye around 1300
 The banks surveying, strip'd her beauteous limbs,
 To taste the lucid coolness of the flood.
 Ah then ! not *Paris* on the piny top
 Of *Ida* panted stronger, when aside
 The rival-goddeses the veil divine 1305
 Cast unconfin'd, and gave him all their charms,
 Than, DAMON, thou ; as from the snowy leg,
 And slender foot, th' inverted filk she drew ;
 As the soft touch dissolv'd the virgin zone ;
 And, thro' the parting robe, th' alternate breast, 1310
 With youth wild-throbbing, on thy lawless gaze
 In full luxuriance rose. But, desperate youth,
 How durst thou risque the soul-distracting view ;
 As from her naked limbs, of glowing white,
 Harmonious swell'd by Nature's finest hand, 1315
 In folds loose-floating fell the fainter lawn ;
 And fair-expos'd she stood, shrunk from herself,
 With fancy blushing, at the doubtful breeze
 Alarm'd, and starting like the fearful fawn ?
 Then to the flood she rush'd ; the parted flood 1320
 Its lovely guest with closing waves receiv'd ;
 And every beauty softening, every grace

Flushing anew, a mellow lustre shed:
 As shines the lily thro' the crystal mild;
 Or as the rose amid the morning dew, 1325
 Fresh from *Aurora's* hand, more sweetly glows.
 While thus she wanton'd, now beneath the wave
 But ill-conceal'd; and now with streaming locks,
 That half-embrac'd her in a humid veil,
 Rising again, the latent DAMON drew 1330
 Such madning draughts of beauty to the soul,
 As for a while o'erwhelm'd his raptur'd thought
 With luxury too daring. Check'd, at last,
 By love's respectful modesty, he deem'd
 The theft profane, if aught profane to love 1335
 Can e'er be deem'd; and, struggling from the shade,
 With headlong hurry fled: but first these lines,
 Trac'd by his ready pencil, on the bank
 With trembling hand he threw. "Bathe on, my fair,
 "Yet unbeheld save by the sacred eye 1340
 "Of faithful love; I go to guard thy haunt,
 "To keep from thy recess each vagrant foot,
 "And each licentious eye." With wild surprize,
 As if to marble struck, devoid of sense,
 A stupid moment motionless she stood; 1345
 So stands the * statue that enchants the world,
 So bending tries to veil the matchless boast,
 The mingled beauties of exulting *Greece*.
 Recovering, swift she flew to find those robes
 Which blissful *Eden* knew not; and, array'd 1350

* The Venus of Medici.

In careless haste, th' alarming paper snatch'd.
 But, when her DAMON'S well-known hand she saw,
 Her terrors vanish'd, and a softer train
 Of mixt emotions, hard to be describ'd,
 Her sudden bosom seiz'd: shame void of guilt, **1355**
 The charming blush of innocence, esteem
 And admiration of her lover's flame,
 By modesty exalted: even a sense
 Of self-approving beauty stole across
 Her busy thought. At length, a tender calm **1360**
 Hush'd by degrees the tumult of her soul;
 And on the spreading beech, that o'er the stream
 Incumbent hung, she with the silvan pen
 Of rural lovers this confession carv'd,
 Which soon her DAMON kiss'd with weeping joy: **1365**
 "Dear youth! sole judge of what these verses mean,
 "By fortune too much favour'd, but by love,
 "Alas! not favour'd less, be still as now
 "Discreet; the time may come you need not fly."

THE sun has lost his rage: his downward orb **1370**
 Shoots nothing now but animating warmth,
 And vital lustre; that, with various ray,
 Lights up the clouds, those beauteous robes of heaven,
 Incessant roll'd into romantic shapes,
 The dream of waking fancy! Broad below, **1375**
 Cover'd with ripening fruits, and swelling fast
 Into the perfect year, the pregnant earth
 And all her tribes rejoice. Now the soft hour
 Of walking comes: for him who lonely loves

To seek the distant hills, and there converse 1380
With Nature; there to harmonize his heart,
And in pathetic song to breathe around
The harmony to others. Social friends,
Attun'd to happy unison of soul;
To whose exalting eye a fairer world, 1385
Of which the vulgar never had a glimpse,
Displays its charms; whose minds are richly fraught
With philosophic stores, superior light;
And in whose breast, enthusiastic, burns
Virtue, the sons of interest deem romance; 1390
Now call'd abroad enjoy the falling day:
Now to the verdant *Portico* of woods,
To Nature's vast *Lyceum*, forth they walk;
By that kind *School* where no proud master reigns,
The full free converse of the friendly heart, 1395
Improving and improv'd. Now from the world,
Sacred to sweet retirement, lovers steal,
And pour their souls in transport, which the SIRE
Of love approving hears, and *calls it good*.
Which way, AMANDA, shall we bend our course? 1400
The choice perplexes. Wherefore should we chuse?
All is the same with thee. Say, shall we wind
Along the streams? or walk the smiling mead?
Or court the forest-glades? or wander wild
Among the waving harvests? or ascend, 1405
While radiant Summer opens all its pride,
Thy hill, delightful * *Shene*? Here let us sweep

* The old name of *Richmond*, signifying in Saxon *Shining*, or *Splendor*.

The boundless landskip : now the raptur'd eye,
 Exulting swift, to huge AUGUSTA send,
 Now to the * *Sister-Hills* that skirt her plain, 1410
 To lofty *Harrow* now, and now to where
 Majestic *Windsor* lifts his princely brow.
 In lovely contrast to this glorious view
 Calmly magnificent, then will we turn
 To where the silver THAMES first rural grows. 1415
 There let the feasted eye unwearied stray :
 Luxurious, there, rove thro' the pendant woods
 That nodding hang o'er HARRINGTON's retreat ;
 And, stooping thence to *Ham's* embowering walks,
 Beneath whose shades, in spotless peace retir'd, 1420
 With HER the pleasing partner of his heart,
 The worthy QUEENSB'RY yet laments his GAY,
 And polish'd CORNBURY wooes the willing Muse.
 Slow let us trace the matchless VALE OF THAMES ;
 Fair-winding up to where the Muses haunt 1425
 In *Twit'nam's* bowers, and for their POPE implore
 The healing God ** ; to royal *Hampton's* pile,
 To *Clermont's* terrass'd height, and *Essex's* groves,
 Where in the sweetest solitude, embrac'd
 By the soft windings of the silent *Mole*, 1430
 From courts and senates PELHAM finds repose.
 Inchanting vale ! beyond whate'er the Muse
 Has of *Achaia* or *Hesperia* sung !
 O vale of blifs ! O softly-swelling hills !
 On which the *Power of Cultivation* lies, 1435

* *Highbate* and *Hamstead*.

** In his last sickness.

And joys to see the wonders of his toil.

HEAVENS! what a goodly prospect spreads around,
Of hills, and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
And glittering towns, and gilded streams, till all
The stretching landskip into smoke decays! 1440

Happy BRITANNIA! where the QUEEN OF ARTS,
Inspiring vigour, LIBERTY abroad
Walks, unconfin'd, even to thy farthest cotts,
And scatters plenty with unsparing hand.

RICH is thy soil, and merciful thy clime; 1445
Thy streams unfailing in the Summer's drought;
Unmatch'd thy guardian-oaks; thy valleys float
With golden waves: and on thy mountains flocks
Bleat numberless; while, roving round their sides,
Bellow the blackening herds in lusty droves. 1450
Beneath, thy meadows glow, and rise unquell'd
Against the mower's scythe. On every hand
Thy villas shine. Thy country teems with wealth;
And property assures it to the swain,
Pleas'd and unwearied, in his guarded toil. 1455

FULL are thy cities with the sons of art;
And trade and joy, in every busy street,
Mingling are heard: even Drudgery himself,
As at the car he sweats, or dusty hews
The palace-stone, looks gay. Thy crouded ports, 1460
Where rising masts an endless prospect yield,
With labour burn, and echo to the shouts

Of hurried sailor, as he hearty waves
His last adieu, and loosening every sheet,
Resigns the spreading vessel to the wind. 1465

BOLD, firm, and graceful, are thy generous youth,
By hardship finew'd, and by danger fir'd,
Scattering the nations where they go; and first
Or on the list'd plain, or stormy seas.
Mild are thy glories too, as o'er the plans 1470
Of thriving peace thy thoughtful fires preside;
In genius, and substantial learning, high;
For every virtue, every worth, renown'd;
Sincere, plain-hearted, hospitable, kind;
Yet like the mustering thunder when provok'd, 1475
The dread of tyrants, and the sole resource
Of those that under grim oppression groan.

THY SONS OF GLORY many! ALFRED thine,
In whom the splendor of heroic war,
And more heroic peace, when govern'd well, 1480
Combine; whose hallowed name the virtues saint,
And *his own* Muses love; the best of *Kings!*
With him thy EDWARDS and thy HENRYS shine,
Names dear to Fame; the first who deep impress'd
On haughty *Gaul* the terror of thy arms, 1485
That awes her genius still. In *Statesmen* thou,
And *Patriots*, fertile. Thine a steady MORE,
Who, with a generous tho' mistaken zeal,
Withstood a brutal tyrant's useful rage,
Like CATO firm, like ARISTIDES just, 1490

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Like rigid CINCINNATUS nobly poor.
 A dauntless soul erect, who smil'd on death.
 Frugal, and wise, a WALSINGHAM is thine;
 A DRAKE, who made thee mistress of the deep,
 And bore thy name in thunder round the world. 1495
 Then flam'd thy spirit high : but who can speak
 The numerous worthies of the MAIDEN REIGN ?
 In RALEIGH mark their every glory mix'd ;
 RALEIGH, the scourge of *Spain* ! whose breast with all
 The sage, the patriot, and the hero burn'd. 1500
 Nor sunk his vigour, when a coward reign
 The warrior fettered, and at last resign'd,
 To glut the vengeance of a vanquish'd foe.
 Then, active still and unrestrain'd, his mind
 Explor'd the vast extent of ages past, 1505
 And with his prison-hours enrich'd the world ;
 Yet found no times, in all the long research,
 So glorious, or so base, as those he prov'd,
 In which he conquer'd, and in which he bled.
 Nor can the Muse the gallant SIDNEY pass, 1510
 The plume of war ! with early laurels crown'd,
 The Lover's myrtle, and the Poet's bay.
 A HAMDEN too is thine, illustrious land,
 Wise, strenuous, firm, of unsubmitting soul,
 Who stem'd the torrent of a downward age 1515
 To slavery prone, and bade thee rise again,
 In all thy native pomp of freedom bold.
 Bright, at his call, thy Age of *Men* effulg'd
 Of Men on whom late time a kindling eye
 Shall turn, and tyrants tremble while they read. 1520

Bring every sweetest flower, and let me strew
 The grave where RUSSEL lies; whose temper'd blood,
 With calmest cheerfulness for the resign'd,
 Stain'd the sad annals of a giddy reign;
 Aiming at lawless power, tho' meanly sunk 1525
 In loose inglorious luxury. With him
 His friend, the *BRITISH CASSIUS, fearless bled;
 Of high determin'd spirit, roughly brave,
 By ancient learning to th' enlightened love
 Of ancient freedom warm'd. Fair thy renown 1530
 In awful *Sages* and in noble *Bards*;
 Soon as the light of dawning Science spread
 Her orient ray, and wak'd the Muses' song,
 Thine is a BACON; hapless in his choice,
 Unfit to stand the civil storm of state, 1535
 And thro' the smooth barbarity of courts,
 With firm but pliant virtue, forward still
 To urge his course: him for the studious shade
 Kind Nature form'd, deep, comprehensive, clear,
 Exact, and elegant; in one rich soul, 1540
 PLATO, the STAGYRITE, and TULLY join'd.
 The great deliverer he! who from the gloom
 Of cloister'd monks, and jargon-teaching schools,
 Led forth the true Philosophy, there long
 Held in the magic chain of words and forms, 1545
 And definitions void; he led her forth,
 Daughter of HEAVEN! that slow-ascending still,
 Investigating sure the chain of things,
 With radiant finger points to HEAVEN again.

* ALGERNON SIDNEY.

The generous *ASHLEY thine, the friend of Man; 1550
Who scann'd his Nature with a brother's eye,
His weakness prompt to shade, to raise his aim,
To touch the finer movements of the mind,
And with the *moral beauty* charm the heart.
Why need I name thy BOYLE, whose pious search 1555
Amid the dark recesses of his works,
The great CREATOR sought? And why thy LOCKE,
Who made the whole internal world his own?
Let NEWTON, *pure Intelligence*, whom God
To mortals lent, to trace his boundless works 1560
From laws sublimely simple, speak thy fame
In all philosophy. For lofty sense,
Creative fancy, and inspection keen
Thro' the deep windings of the human heart, 1564
Is not wild SHAKESPEARE thine and Nature's boast?
Is not each great, each amiable Muse
Of classic ages in thy MILTON met?
A genius universal as his theme;
Astonishing as Chaos, as the bloom
Of blowing Eden fair, as Heaven sublime. 1570
Nor shall my verse that elder bard forget,
The gentle SPENCER, Fancy's pleasing son;
Who, like a copious river, pour'd his song
O'er all the mazes of enchanted ground:
Nor thee, his ancient master, laughing sage, 1575
CHAUCER, whose native manners painting verse,
Well-moraliz'd, shines thro' the Gothic cloud
Of time and language o'er thy genius thrown.

* ANTONY ASHLEY COOPER, Earl of Shaftesbury.

MAY my song soften, as thy DAUGHTERS I,
 BRITANNIA, hail! for beauty is their own, 1580
 The feeling heart, simplicity of life,
 And elegance, and taste; the faultless form,
 Shap'd by the hand of harmony; the cheek,
 Where the live crimson, thro' the native white
 Soft-shooting, o'er the face diffuses bloom, 1585
 And every nameless grace; the parted lip,
 Like the red rose-bud moist with morning-dew,
 Breathing delight; and, under flowing jet,
 Or sunny ringlers, or of circling brown,
 The neck flight-shaded, and the swelling breast; 1590
 The look resistless, piercing to the soul,
 And by the soul inform'd, when drest in love
 She sits high-smiling in the conscious eye.

ISLAND of bliss! amid the subject seas,
 That runder round thy rocky coasts, set up, 1595
 At once the wonder, terror, and delight,
 Of distant nations; whose remotest shores
 Can soon be shaken by thy naval arm;
 Not to be shook thyself, but all assaults
 Baffling, as thy hoar cliffs the loud sea-wave. 1600

O THOU! by whose almighty *Nod* the scale
 Of empire rises, or alternate falls,
 Send forth the saving VIRTUES round the land,
 In bright patrol: white *Peace*, and social *Love*;
 The tender-looking *Charity*, intent 1605
 On gentle deeds, and shedding tears thro' smiles;

Undaunted *Truth*, and *Dignity* of mind;
Courage compos'd, and keen; sound *Temperance*,
 Healthful in heart and look; clear *Chastity*,
 With blushes reddening as she moves along, 1610
 Disordered at the deep regard she draws;
 Rough *Industry*; *Activity* untir'd,
 With copious life inform'd, and all awake:
 While in the radiant front, superior shines
 That first paternal virtue, *Public Zeal*; 1615
 Who throws o'er all an equal wide survey,
 And, ever musing on the common weal,
 Still labours glorious with some great design.

Low walks the sun, and broadens by degrees,
 Just o'er the verge of day. The shifting clouds 1620
 Assembled gay, a richly-gorgeous train,
 In all their pomp attend his setting throne.
 Air, earth, and ocean smile immense. And now,
 As if his weary chariot sought the bowers
 Of *Amphitrite*, and her tending nymphs, 1625
 (So *Grecian* fable sung) he dips his orb;
 Now half-immers'd; and now a golden curve
 Gives one bright glance, then total disappears.

For ever running an enchanted round,
 Passes the day, deceitful, vain, and void; 1630
 As fleets the vision o'er the formful brain,
 This moment hurrying wild th'impassion'd soul,
 The next in nothing lost. 'Tis so to him,
 The dreamer of this earth, an idle blank:

A sight of horror to the cruel wretch, 1635
 Who all day long in fordid pleasure roll'd,
 Himself an useless load, has squander'd vile,
 Upon his scoundrel train, what might have cheer'd
 A drooping family of modest worth.
 But to the generous still-improving mind, 1640
 That gives the hopeless heart to sing for joy,
 Diffusing kind beneficence around,
 Boastless, as now descends the silent dew;
 To him the long review of order'd life
 Is inward rapture, only to be felt. 1645

CONFESS'D from yonder slow-extinguish'd clouds,
 All ether softening, sober *Evening* takes
 Her wonted station in the middle air;
 A thousand *shadows* at her beck. First *this*
 She sends on earth; then *that* of deeper dye 1650
 Steals soft behind; and then a *deeper* still,
 In circle following circle, gathers round,
 To close the face of things. A fresher gale
 Begins to wave the wood, and stir the stream,
 Sweeping with shadowy gust the fields of corn; 1655
 While the quail clamours for his running mate.
 Wide o'er the thistly lawn, as swells the breeze,
 A whitening shower of vegetable down
 Amassive floats. The kind impartial care
 Of Nature nought disdains: thoughtful to feed 1660
 Her lowest sons, and clothe the coming year,
 From field to field the feathered feeds she wings.

His folded flock secure, the shepherd home
Hies, merry-hearted; and by turns relieves
The ruddy milk-maid of her brimming pail; 1665
The beauty whom perhaps his witless heart,
Unknowing what the joy mixt anguish means,
Sincerely loves, by that best language shewn
Of cordial glances, and obliging deeds.
Onward they pass, o'er many a panting height, 1670
And valley sunk, and unfrequented; where
At fall of eve the fairy people throng,
In various game, and revelry, to pass
The summer-night, as village-stories tell.
But far about they wander from the grave 1675
Of him, whom his ungentle fortune urg'd
Against his own sad breast to lift the hand
Of impious violence. The lonely tower,
Is also shun'd; whose mournful chambers hold,
So night struck Fancy dreams, the yelling ghost. 1680

Among the crooked lanes, on every hedge,
The glow-worm lights his gem; and, thro' the dark,
A moving radiance twinkles. Evening yields
The world to Night; not in her winter-robe
Of massy Stygian woof, but loose array'd 1685
In mantle dun. A faint erroneous ray,
Glanc'd from th' imperfect surfaces of things
Flings half an image on the straining eye;
While wavering woods, and villages, and streams,
And rocks, and mountain-tops, that long retain'd 1690
Th' ascending gleam, are all one swimming scene,

Uncertain if beheld. Sudden to heaven
 Thence weary vision turns; where, leading soft
 The silent hours of love, with purest ray
 Sweet *Venus* shines; and from her genial rise, 1695
 When day light sickens till it springs afresh,
 Unrival'd reigns, the fairest lamp of night.
 As thus th' effulgence tremulous I drink,
 With cherish'd gaze, the lambent lightnings shoot
 Across the sky; or horizontal dart 1700
 In wondrous shapes: by fearful murmuring crouds
 Portentous deem'd. Amid the radiant orbs,
 That more than deck, that animate the sky,
 The life-infusing suns of other worlds;
 Lo! from the dread immensity of space 1705
 Returning, with accelerated course,
 The rushing comet to the sun descends;
 And as he sinks below the shading earth,
 With awful train projected o'er the heavens,
 The guilty nations tremble. But, above 1710
 Those superstitious horrors that enslave
 The fond sequacious herd, to mystic faith
 And blind amazement prone, the enlightened few,
 Whose godlike minds philosophy exalts,
 The glorious stranger hail. They feel a joy 1715
 Divinely great; they in their powers exult,
 That wondrous force of thought, which mounting
 spurns
 This dusky spot, and measures all the sky;
 While, from his far excursion thro' the wilds
 Of barren ether, faithful to his time, 1720

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fast o fast o fast o

They see the blazing wonder rise anew,
 In seeming terror clad, but kindly bent
 To work the will of all-sustaining LOVE:
 From his huge vapoury train perhaps to shake
 Reviving moisture on the numerous orbs, 1725
 Thro' which his long ellipsis winds; perhaps
 To lend new fuel to declining suns,
 To light up worlds, and feed th' eternal fire.

WITH thee, serene PHILOSOPHY, with thee,
 And thy bright garland, let me crown my song! 1730
 Effusive source of evidence, and truth!
 A lustre shedding o'er th'ennobled mind,
 Stronger than summer-noon; and pure as that,
 Whose mild vibrations sooth the parted soul,
 New to the dawning of celestial day, 1735
 Hence thro' her nourish'd powers, enlarg'd by thee,
 She springs aloft, with elevated pride,
 Above the tangling mass of low desires,
 That bind the fluttering crowd; and, angel-wing'd,
 The heights of science and of virtue gains, 1740
 Where all is calm and clear; with Nature round,
 Or in the starry regions, or th' abyss,
 To Reason's and to Fancy's eye display'd:
 The *First* up-tracing, from the dreary void,
 The chain of causes and effects to HIM, 1745
 The world-producing ESSENCE, who alone
 Possesses being; while the *Last* receives
 The whole magnificence of heaven and earth,
 And every beauty, delicate or bold,

Obvious or more remote, with livelier sense, 1750
Diffusive painted on the rapid mind.

TUTOR'D by thee, hence POETRY exalts
Her voice to ages; and informs the page
With music, image, sentiment, and thought,
Never to die! the treasure of mankind! 1755
Their highest honour, and their truest joy!

WITHOUT thee what were unenlightened Man?
A savage roaming thro' the woods and wilds,
In quest of prey; and with th' unfashioned fur
Rough-clad; devoid of every finer art, 1760
And elegance of life. Nor happiness
Domestic, mix'd of tenderness and care,
Nor moral excellence, nor social bliss,
Nor guardian law were his; nor various skill
To turn the furrow, or to guide the tool 1765
Mechanic; nor the heaven-conducted prow
Of navigation bold, that fearless braves
The burning line or dares the wintry pole;
Mother severe of infinite delights!
Nothing, save rapine, indolence, and guile, 1770
And woes on woes, a still-revolving train!
Whose horrid circle had made human life
Than non-existence worse: but, taught by thee,
Ours are the plans of policy, and peace;
To live like brothers, and conjunctive all 1775
Embellish life. While thus laborious crowds
Ply the rough oar, PHILOSOPHY directs

The ruling helm; or like the liberal breath
Of potent Heaven, invifible, the fail
Swells out, and bears th' inferior world along. 1780

NOR to this evanefcent fpeck of earth
Poorly confin'd, the radiant tracts on high
Are her exalted range; intent to gaze
Creation thro'; and, from that full complex
Of never-ending wonders, to conceive 1785

Of the SOLE BEING right, wo *fpoke the Word*,
And Nature mov'd complete. With inward view,
Thence on th' ideal kingdom fswift fhe turns
Her eye; and instant, at her powerful glance,
Th' obedient phantoms vanifh or appear; 1790

Compound, divide, and into order fhift,
Each to his rank, from plain perception up
To the fair forms of Fancy's fleeting train:
To reason then, deducing truth from truth;
And notion quite abftract; where firft begins 1795

The world of fpirits, action all, and life
Unfettered, and unmixt. But here the cloud,
So wills ETERNAL PROVIDENCE, fits deep.
Enough for us to know that his dark ftate,
In wayward paffions loft, and vain purfuits, 1800

This Infancy of Being, cannot prove
The final iffue of the works of GOD,
By boundlefs LOVE and perfect WISDOM form'd,
And ever rifing with the rifing mind.

The rising beam of the sun
Of potent light, the sun
Shines out, and bears the world along
Now to the east, and now to west
Rising and setting, the sun
At the east, and at the west
Creation this, and that, and all
Of new, ending, world, to be
Of the sun, the sun, the sun
And the sun, the sun, the sun

A U T U M N

The sun, the sun, the sun
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A U T U M N.

The ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Addressed to Mr. ONSLOW. A prospect of the fields ready for harvest. Reflections in praise of industry raised by that view. Reaping. A tale relative to it. A harvest storm. Shooting and hunting, their barbarity. A ludicrous account of fox-hunting. A view of an orchard. Wall fruit. A vineyard. A description of fogs, frequent in the latter part of Autumn: whence a digression, enquiring into the rise of fountains and rivers. Birds of season considered, that now shift their habitation. The prodigious number of them that cover the northern and western isles of SCOTLAND. Hence a view of the country. A prospect of the discoloured, fading woods. After a gentle dusky day, moon-light. Autumnal meadows. Morning: to which succeeds a calm, pure, sun shiny day, such as usually shuts up the season. The harvest being gathered in, the country dissolved in joy. The whole concludes with a panegyric on a philosophical country life.

A U T U M N.

CROWN'D with the fickle and the wheaten sheaf,
 While AUTUMN, nodding o'er the yellow plain,
 Comes jovial on; the *Doric* reed once more,
 Well pleas'd, I tune. Whate'er the Wintry frost
 Nitrous prepar'd; the various-blossom'd Spring 5
 Put in white promise forth; and Summer suns
 Concocted strong, rush boundless now to view,
 Full, perfect all, and swell my glorious theme.

ON SLOW! the Muse, ambitious of thy name,
 To grace, inspire, and dignify her song, 10
 Would from the *Public Voice* thy gentle ear
 A while engage. Thy noble cares she knows,
 The patriot virtues that distend thy thought,
 Spread on thy front, and in thy bosom glow;
 While listening senates hang upon thy tongue, 15
 Devolving thro' the maze of eloquence
 A roll of periods, sweeter than her song.
 But she too pants for public virtue, she,
 Tho' weak of power, yet strong in ardent will,
 Whene'er her country rushes on her heart, 20
 Assumes a bolder note, and fondly tries
 To mix the patriot's with the poet's flame.

WHEN the bright *Virgin* gives the beauteous days,

And *Libra* weighs in equal scales the year;
 From heaven's high cope the fierce effulgence shook 25
 Of parting Summer, a serener blue,
 With golden light enlivened, wide invests
 The happy world. Attemper'd suns arise,
 Sweet-beam'd, and shedding oft thro' lucid clouds
 A pleasing calm; while broad, and brown, below 30
 Extensive harvests hang the heavy head.
 Rich, silent, deep, they stand; for not a gale
 Rolls its light billows o'er the bending plain:
 A calm of plenty! till the ruffled air
 Falls from its poise, and gives the breeze to blow. 35
 Rent is the fleecy mantle of the sky;
 The clouds fly different; and the sudden sun
 By fits effulgent gilds th' illumin'd field,
 And black by fits the shadows sweep along.
 A gaily-checker'd heart-expanding view, 40
 Far as the circling eye can shoot around
 Unbounded tossing in a flood of corn.

THESE are thy blessings, INDUSTRY! rough power!
 Whom labour still attends, and sweat, and pain;
 Yet the kind source of every gentle art, 45
 And all the soft civility of life:
 Raiser of human kind! by Nature cast,
 Naked, and helpless, out amid the woods
 And wilds, to rude inclement elements;
 With various seeds of art deep in the mind 50
 Implanted, and profusely pour'd around
 Materials infinite; but idle all.

Still unexerted, in th' unconscious breast,
Slept the lethargic powers; corruption still,
Voracious, swallowed what the liberal hand 55
Of bounty scatter'd o'er the savage year:
And still the sad barbarian, roving, mix'd
With beasts of prey; or for his acorn-meal
Fought the fierce tusky boar; a shivering wretch!
Aghast, and comfortless, when the bleak north, 60
With Winter charg'd, let the mix'd tempest fly,
Hail, rain, and snow, and bitter-breathing frost:
Then to the shelter of the hut he fled;
And the wild season, fordid, pin'd away.
For home he had not; home is the resort 65
Of love, of joy, of peace and plenty, where,
Supporting and supported, polish'd friends,
And dear relations mingle into bliss,
But this the rugged savage never felt,
Even desolate in crowds; and thus his days 70
Roll'd heavy, dark, and unenjoy'd along:
A waste of time! till INDUSTRY approach'd,
And rous'd him from his miserable sloth:
His faculties unfolded; pointed out,
Where lavish Nature the directing hand 75
Of Art demanded; shew'd him how to raise
His feeble force by the mechanic powers,
To dig the mineral from the vaulted earth,
On what to turn the piercing rage of fire,
On what the torrent, and the gather'd blast; 80
Gave the tall ancient forest to his ax;
Taught him to chip the wood, and hew the stone,

Till by degrees the finish'd fabric rose;
 Tore from his limbs the blood polluted fur,
 And wrapt them in the woolly vestment warm, 85
 Or bright in glossy silk, and flowing lawn;
 With wholesome viands fill'd his table, pour'd
 The generous glass around, inspir'd to wake
 The life-refining soul of decent wit:
 Nor stopp'd at barren bare necessity; 90
 But still advancing bolder, led him on
 To pomp, to pleasure, elegance, and grace;
 And, breathing high ambition thro' his soul
 Set science, wisdom, glory, in his view,
 And bade him be the *Lord* of all below. 95

THEN gathering men their natural powers combin'd,
 And form'd a *Public*; to the general good
 Submitting, aiming, and conducting all.
 For this the *Patriot Council* met, the full,
 The free, and fairly represented *Whole*; 100
 For this they plann'd the holy guardian laws,
 Distinguish'd orders, animated arts,
 And with joint force *Oppression* chaining, set
Imperial Justice at the helm; yet still
 To them accountable: nor slavish dream'd 105
 That toiling millions must resign their weal,
 And all the honey of their search, to such
 As for themselves alone themselves have rais'd.

HENCE every form of cultivated life
 In order set, protected, and inspir'd, 110

Into perfection wrought. Uniting all,
 Society grew numerous, high, polite,
 And happy. Nurse of art! the city rear'd
 In beauteous pride her tower-encircled head;
 And, stretching street on street, by thousands drew, 115
 From twining woody haunts, or the tough yew
 To bows strong-straining, her aspiring sons.

THEN COMMERCE brought into the public walk
 The busy merchant; the big ware-house built; 119
 Rais'd the strong crane; choak'd up the loaded street
 With foreign plenty; and thy stream, O THAMES,
 Large, gentle, deep, majestic, king of floods!
 Chose for his grand resort. On either hand,
 Like a long wintry forest, groves of masts
 Shot up their spires; the bellying sheet between 125
 Possess'd the breezy void; the sooty hulk,
 Steer'd sluggish on; the splendid barge along
 Row'd, regular, to harmony; around,
 The boat, light-skimming, stretch'd its oary wings;
 While deep the various voice of fervent toil 130
 From bank to bank increas'd; whence ribb'd with oak,
 To bear the BRITISH THUNDER, black, and bold,
 The roaring vessel rush'd into the main.

THEN too the pillar'd dome, magnific, heav'd
 Its ample roof; and Luxury within 135
 Pour'd out her glittering stores: the canvas smooth,
 With glowing life protuberant, to the view
 Embodied rose; the statue seem'd to breathe,

And soften into flesh, beneath the touch
Of forming art, imagination-flush'd. 140

ALL is the gift of INDUSTRY; whate'er
Exalts, embellishes, and renders life
Delightful. Pensive Winter cheer'd by him
Sits at the social fire, and happy hears
Th' excluded tempest idly rave along; 145
His harden'd fingers deck the gaudy Spring;
Without him Summer were an arid waste;
Nor to th' Autumnal months could thus transmit
Those full, mature, immeasurable stores,
That, waving round, recall my wandering song. 150

SOON as the morning trembles o'er the sky,
And, unperceiv'd, unfolds the spreading day;
Before the ripened field the reapers stand,
In fair array; each by the lass he loves,
To bear the rougher part, and mitigate 155
By nameless gentle offices her toil.
At once they stoop and swell the lusty sheaves;
While thro' their cheerful band the rural talk,
The rural scandal, and the rural jest,
Fly harmless, to deceive the tedious time, 160
And steal unfelt the sultry hours away.
Behind the master walks, builds up the flocks;
And, conscious, glancing oft on every side
His fated eye, feels his heart heave with joy.
The gleaners spread around, and here and there, 165
Spike after spike, their scanty harvest pick.

Be not too narrow, husbandmen! but fling
From the full sheaf, with charitable stealth,
The liberal handful. Think, oh grateful think!
How good the GOD of HARVEST is to you; 170
Who pours abundance o'er your flowing fields;
While these unhappy partners of your kind
Wide-hover round you, like the fowls of heaven,
And ask their humble dole. The various turns
Of fortune ponder; that your sons may want 175
What now, with hard reluctance, faint, ye give.

THE lovely young LAVINIA once had friends;
And Fortune smil'd, deceitful, on her birth.
For, in her helpless years depriv'd of all,
Of every stay, save Innocence and HEAVEN, 180
She, with her widow'd mother, feeble, old,
And poor, liv'd in a cottage, far retir'd
Among the windings of a woody vale;
By solitude and deep surrounding shades,
But more by bashful modesty conceal'd. 185
Together thus they shunn'd the cruel scorn
Which virtue, sunk to poverty, would meet
From giddy passion and low-minded pride:
Almost on Nature's common bounty fed;
Like the gay birds that sung them to repose, 190
Content, and careless of to-morrow's fare.
Her form was fresher than the morning rose,
When the dew wets its leaves; unstain'd, and pure,
As is the lily, or the mountain snow.
The modest virtues mingled in her eyes, 195

Still on the ground dejected, darting all
 Their humid beams into the blooming flowers:
 Or when the mournful tale her mother told,
 Of what her faithless fortune promis'd once,
 Thrill'd in her thought, they; like the dewy star 200
 Of evening, shone in tears. A native grace
 Sat fair-proportion'd on her polish'd limbs,
 Veil'd in a simple robe, their best attire,
 Beyond the pomp of dress; for loveliness
 Needs not the foreign aid of ornament, 205
 But is when unadorn'd adorn'd the most.
 Thoughtless of beauty, she was beauty's self,
 Recluse amid the close-embowering woods.
 As in the hollow breast of *Appenine*,
 Beneath the shelter of encircling hills, 210
 A myrtle rises, far from human eye,
 And breathes its balmy fragrance o'er the wild;
 So flourish'd blooming, and unseen by all,
 The sweet LAVINIA; till, at length, compell'd
 By strong Necessity's supreme command, 215
 With smiling patience in her looks, she went
 To glean PALEMON's fields. The pride of swains
 PALEMON was, the generous, and the rich;
 Who led the rural life in all its joy
 And elegance, such as *Arcadian* song 220
 Transmits from ancient uncorrupted times;
 When tyrant custom had not shackled Man,
 But free to follow Nature was the mode.
 He then, his fancy with autumnal scenes
 Amusing, chanc'd beside his reaper-train 225

To walk, when poor LAVINIA drew his eye;
Unconscious of her power, and turning quick
With unaffected blushes from his gaze;
He saw her charming, but he saw not half
The charms her downcast modesty conceal'd. 230
That very moment love and chaste desire
Sprung in his bosom, to himself unknown;
For still the world prevail'd, and its dread laugh,
Which scarce the firm philosopher can scorn,
Should his heart own a gleaner in the field: 235
And thus in secret to his soul he sigh'd.

“WHAT pity! that so delicate a form,
“By beauty kindled, where enlivening sense
“And more than vulgar goodness seem to dwell,
“Should be devoted to the rude embrace 240
“Of some indecent clown! She looks, methinks,
“Of old ACASTO’S line; and to my mind
“Recalls that patron of my happy life,
“From whom my liberal fortune took its rise;
“Now to the dust gone down; his houses, lands, 245
“And once fair-spreading family, dissolv’d.
“’Tis said that in some lone obscure retreat,
“Urg’d by remembrance sad, and decent pride,
“Far from those scenes which knew their better days,
“His aged widow and his daughter live, 250
“Whom yet my fruitless search could never find.
“Romantic wish! would this the daughter were!”

WHEN, strict enquiring, from herself he found
She was the same, the daughter of his friend,

Of bountiful ACASTO; who can speak 255
 The mingled passions that surpriz'd his heart,
 And thro' his nerves in shivering transport ran?
 Then blaz'd his smother'd flame, avow'd, and bold;
 And as he view'd her, ardent, o'er and o'er,
 Love, gratitude, and pity wept at once. 260
 Confus'd, and frightened at his sudden tears,
 Her rising beauties flush'd a higher bloom,
 As thus PALEMON, passionate, and just,
 Pour'd out the pious rapture of his soul,

“And art thou then ACASTO's dear remains? 265
 “She, whom my restless gratitude has sought,
 “So long in vain? O heavens! the very same,
 “The softened image of my noble friend,
 “Alive his every look, his every feature,
 “More elegantly touch'd. Sweeter than Spring! 270
 “Thou sole surviving blossom from the root
 “That nourish'd up my fortune! Say, ah where,
 “In what sequester'd desert, hast thou drawn
 “The kindest aspect of delighted HEAVEN?
 “Into such beauty spread, and blown so fair; 275
 “Tho' poverty's cold wind, and crushing rain,
 “Beat keen, and heavy, on thy tender years?
 “O let me now, into a richer soil,
 “Transplant thee safe! where vernal suns, and showers,
 “Diffuse their warmest, largest influence; 280
 “And of my garden be the pride, and joy!
 “Ill it befits thee, oh it ill befits
 “ACASTO's daughter, his whose open stores,
 “Tho' vast, were little to his ampler heart,

"The father of a country, thus to pick 285
 "The very refuse of those harvest fields,
 "Which from his bounteous friendship I enjoy.
 "Then throw that shameful pittance from thy hand,
 "But ill apply'd to such a rugged task;
 "The fields, the master, all, my fair, are thine; 290
 "If to the various blessings which thy house
 "Has on me lavish'd, thou wilt add that bliss,
 "That dearest bliss, the power of blessing thee!"

HERE ceas'd the youth: yet still his speaking eye
 Express'd the sacred triumph of his soul, 295
 With conscious virtue, gratitude, and love,
 Above the vulgar joy divinely rais'd.
 Nor waited he reply. Won by the charm
 Of goodness irresistible, and all
 In sweet disorder lost, she blush'd consent. 300
 The news immediate to her mother brought,
 While, pierc'd with anxious thought, she pin'd away
 The lonely moments for LAVINIA'S fate;
 Amaz'd, and scarce believing what she heard,
 Joy seiz'd her wither'd veins, and one bright gleam
 Of setting life shone on her evening-hours: 306
 Not less enraptur'd then the happy pair;
 Who flourish'd long in tender bliss, and rear'd
 A numerous offspring, lovely like themselves;
 And good, the grace of all the country round. 310

DEFEATING oft the labours of the year,
 The sultry south collects a potent blast.

At first the groves are scarcely seen to stir
 Their trembling tops; and a still murmur runs
 Along the soft-inclining fields of corn. 315
 But as the aerial tempest fuller swells,
 And in one mighty stream, invisible,
 Immense, the whole excited atmosphere,
 Impetuous rushes o'er the sounding world;
 Strain'd to the root, the stooping forest pours 320
 A rustling shower of yet untimely leaves.
 High-beat, the circling mountains eddy in,
 From the bare wild, the dissipated storm,
 And send it in a torrent down the vale.
 Expos'd, and naked, to its utmost rage, 325
 Thro' all the sea of harvest rolling round,
 The billowy plain floats wide; nor can evade,
 Tho' pliant to the blast, its seizing force;
 Or whirl'd in air, or into vacant chaff
 Shook waste. And sometimes too a burst of rain, 330
 Swept from the black horizon, broad, descends
 In one continuous flood. Still over head
 The mingling tempest weaves its gloom, and still
 The deluge deepens; till the fields around
 Lie sunk, and flatted, in the fordid wave. 335
 Sudden, the ditches swell; the meadows swim.
 Red, from the hills, innumerable streams
 Tumultuous roar; and high above its banks
 The river lift; before whose rushing tide,
 Herds, flocks, and harvests, cottages, and swains, 340
 Roll mingled down; all that the winds had spar'd
 In one wild moment ruin'd; the big hopes,

And well-earn'd treasures of the painful year.
Fled to some eminence, the husbandman
Helpless beholds the miserable wreck 345
Driving along; his drowning ox at once
Descending, with his labours scatter'd round,
He sees; and instant o'er his shivering thought
Comes winter unprovided, and a train
Of clamant children dear. Ye masters, then, 350
Be mindful of the rough laborious hand,
That sinks you soft in elegance and ease;
Be mindful of those limbs in ruffet clad
Whose toil to yours is warmth, and graceful pride;
And oh be mindful of that sparing board 355
Which covers yours with luxury profuse,
Makes your glass sparkle, and your sense rejoice!
Nor cruelly demand what the deep rains,
And all-involving winds have swept away.

HERE the rude clamour of the sportsman's joy, 360
The gun fast-thundering, and the winded horn,
Would tempt the Muse to sing the *rural Game*:
How, in his mid-career, the spaniel struck,
Stiff, by the tainted gale, with open nose,
Outstretch'd, and finely sensible, *draws* full, 365
Fearful, and cautious, on the latent prey;
As in the fun the circling covey bask
Their varied plumes, and watchful every way,
Thro' the rough stubble turn the secret eye.
Caught in the meshy snare, in vain they beat 370
Their idle wings, intangled more and more:

Nor on the surges of the boundless air,
 Tho' borne triumphant, are they safe; the gun
 Glanc'd just, and sudden, from the fowler's eye
 O'ertakes their sounding pinions; and again, 375
 Immediate, brings them from the towering wing,
 Dead to the ground; or drives them wide-dispers'd,
 Wounded, and wheeling various, down the wind.

THESE are not subjects for the peaceful muse,
 Nor will she stain with such her spotless song; 380
 Then most delighted, when she social sees
 The whole mix'd animal-creation round
 Alive, and happy. 'Tis not joy to her,
 This falsely-cheerful barbarous game of death;
 This rage of pleasure, which the restless youth 385
 Awakes, impatient, with the gleaming morn;
 When beasts of prey retire, that all night long,
 Urg'd by necessity, had rang'd the dark,
 As if their conscious ravage shun'd the light,
 Asham'd. Not so the steady tyrant man, 390
 Who with the thoughtless insolence of power
 Inflam'd, beyond the most infuriate wrath
 Of the worst monster that e'er roam'd the waste,
 For sport alone pursues the cruel chace,
 Amid the beamings of the gentle days. 395
 Upbraid, ye ravening tribes, our wanton rage,
 For hunger kindles you, and lawless want;
 But lavish fed, in Nature's bounty roll'd,
 To joy at anguish, and delight in blood,
 Is what your horrid bosoms never knew. 400

Poor is the triumph o'er the timid hare!
 Scar'd from the corn, and now to some lone seat
 Retir'd: the rushy fen; the ragged furze,
 Stretch'd o'er the stony heath; the stubble chapt;
 The thistly lawn; the thick-entangled broom; 405
 Of the same friendly hue, the wither'd fern;
 The fallow ground laid open to the sun,
 Concoctive; and the nodding sandy bank,
 Hung o'er the mazes of the mountain brook.
 Vain is her best precaution; tho' she fits 410
 Conceal'd, with folded ears; unsleeping eyes,
 By Nature rais'd to take the horizon in;
 And head couch'd close betwixt her hairy feet,
 In act to spring away. The scented dew
 Betrays her early labyrinth; and deep, 415
 In scattered fullen openings, far behind,
 With every breeze she hears the coming storm.
 But nearer, and more frequent, as it loads
 The fighting gale, she springs amaz'd, and all
 The savage soul of game is up at once: 420
 The pack full-opening, various; the shrill horn
 Resounded from the hills; the neighing steed,
 Wild for the chace; and the loud hunters shout;
 O'er a weak, harmless, flying creature, all
 Mix'd in mad tumult, and discordant joy. 425

THE stag too, singled from the herd, where long
 He rang'd the branching monarch of the shades,
 Before the tempest drives. As first, in speed,
 He, sprightly, puts his faith; and rous'd by fear,

Gives all his swift æreal soul to flight; 430
Against the breeze he darts, that way the more
To leave the lessening murderous cry behind:
Deception short! tho' fleeteter than the winds
Blown o'er the keen-air'd mountain by the north,
He bursts the thickets, glances thro' the glades, 435
And plunges deep into the wildest wood;
If slow, yet sure, adhesive to the track
Hot-steaming, up behind him come again
Th' inhuman rout, and from the shady depth
Expel him, circling thro' his every shift. 440
He sweeps the forest oft; and sobbing fees
The glades, mild opening to the golden day;
Where, in kind contest, with his butting 'friends
He wont to struggle, or his loves enjoy.
Oft in the full-descending flood he tries 445
To lose the scent, and lave his burning sides;
Oft seeks the herd; the watchful herd, alarm'd,
With selfish care avoid a brother's woe.
What shall he do? His once so vivid nerves,
So full of buoyant spirit, now no more 450
Inspire the course; but fainting breathless toil,
Sick, seizes on his heart: he stands at bay;
And puts his last weak refuge in despair.
The big round tears run down his dappled face;
He groans in anguish; while the growling pack, 455
Blood-happy, hang at his fair jutting chest,
And mark his beauteous checker'd sides with gore.

Of this enough. But if the sylvan youth,

Whose fervent blood boils into violence,
Must have the chase; behold, despising flight, 460
The rous'd-up lion, resolute, and slow,
Advancing full on the protended spear,
And coward-band, that circling wheel aloof.
Slunk from the cavern, and the troubled wood,
See the grim wolf; on him his shaggy foe 465
Vindictive fix, and let the ruffian die:
Or, growling horrid, as the brindled boar
Grins fell destruction, to the monster's heart
Let the dart lighten from the nervous arm.

THESE BRITAIN knows not; give, ye BRITONS,
then 470
Your sportive fury, pityless, to pour
Loose on the nightly robber of the fold:
Him, from his craggy winding haunts unearth'd,
Let all the thunder of the chase pursue.
Throw the broad ditch behind you; o'er the hedge 475
High-bound, resistless; nor the deep morass
Refuse, but thro' the shaking wilderness
Pick your nice way; into the perilous flood
Bear fearless, of the raging instinct full;
And as you ride the torrent, to the banks 480
Your triumph sound sonorous, running round,
From rock to rock, in circling echos tost;
Then scale the mountains to their woody tops;
Rush down the dangerous steep; and o'er the lawn,
In fancy swallowing up the space between, 485
Pour all your speed into the rapid game.

For happy he! who tops the wheeling chace;
 Has every maze evolv'd, and every guile
 Disclos'd; who knows the merits of the pack;
 Who saw the villain seiz'd, and dying hard, 490
 Without complaint, tho' by an hundred mouths
 Relentless torn: O glorious he, beyond
 His daring peers! when the retreating horn
 Calls them to ghostly halls of grey renown,
 With woodland honours grac'd; the fox's fur, 495
 Depending decent from the roof; and spread
 Round the drear walls, with antick figures fierce,
 The stag's large front; he then is loudest heard,
 When the night staggers with severer toils,
 With feats *Theſſalian* Centaurs never knew, 500
 And their repeated wonders shake the dome.

BUT first the fuel'd chimney blazes wide;
 The tankards foam; and the strong table groans
 Beneath the smoking sirloin, stretch'd immense
 From side to side; in which, with desperate knife, 505
 They deep incision make, and talk the while
 Of ENGLAND'S glory, ne'er to be defaced
 While hence they borrow vigour; or amain
 Into the pasty plung'd, at intervals,
 If stomach keen can intervals allow, 510
 Relating all the glories of the chace.
 Then fated *Hunger* bids his brother *Thirst*
 Produce the mighty bowl; the mighty bowl,
 Swell'd high with fiery juice, steams liberal round
 A potent gale, delicious, as the breath 515

Of *Maia* to the love-sick shepherdes,
On violets diffus'd, while soft she hears
Her panting shepherd stealing to her arms.
Nor wanting is the brown October, drawn,
Mature and perfect, from his dark retreat 520
Of thirty years; and now his honest front
Flames in the light refulgent, not afraid
Even with the vineyard's best produce to vie.
To cheat the thirsty moments, whist a while
Walks his dull round, beneath a cloud of smoke, 525
Wreath'd, fragrant, from the pipe; or the quick dice,
In thunder leaping from the box, awake
The sounding gammon; while romp-loving miss
Is haul'd about, in gallantry robust,

At last these puling idlenesses laid 530
Aside, frequent and full, the dry divan
Close in firm circle; and set, ardent, in
For serious drinking. Nor evasion fly,
Nor sober shift, is to the puking wretch
Indulg'd apart; but earnest, brimming bowls 535
Lave every soul, the table floating round,
And pavement, faithless to the fuddled foot.
Thus as they swim in mutual swill, the talk,
Vociferous at once from twenty tongues, 539
Reels fast from theme to theme; from horses, hounds,
To church or mistress, politicks or ghost,
In endless mazes, intricate, perplex'd.
Mean time, with sudden interruption, loud,
'Th' impatient catch bursts from the joyous heart;

That moment touch'd is every kindred soul; 545
 And, opening in a full-mouth'd Cry of joy,
 The laugh, the flap, the jocund curse go round;
 While, from their slumbers shook, the kennel'd hounds
 Mix in the music of the day again.

As when the tempest, that has vex'd the deep 550
 The dark night long, with fainter murmurs falls:
 So gradual sinks their mirth. Their feeble tongues,
 Unable to take up the cumbrous word,
 Lie quite dissolv'd. Before their maudlin eyes,
 Seen dim, and blue, the double tapers dance, 555
 Like the sun wading thro' the misty sky.

Then, sliding soft, they drop. Confus'd above,
 Glasses and bottles, pipes and gazetteers,
 As if the table even itself was drunk,
 Lie a wet broken scene; and wide, below, 560
 Is heap'd the social slaughter: where astride
 The *lubber Power* in filthy triumph sits,
 Slumbrous, inclining still from side to side,
 And steeps them drench'd in potent sleep till morn.
 Perhaps some doctor, of tremendous paunch, 565
 Awful and deep, a black abyss of drink,
 Out-lives them all; and from his bury'd flock
 Retiring, full of rumination sad,
 Laments the weakness of these latter times.

BUT if the rougher sex by this fierce sport 570
 Is hurried wild, let not such horrid joy
 E'er stain the bosom of the BRITISH FAIR.
 Far be the spirit of the chace from them!

E'er 19'2'2'2'

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Uncomely courage, unbeseeming skill;
To spring the fence; to rein the prancing steed; 575
The cap, the whip, the masculine attire,
In which they roughen to the sense, and all
The winning softness of their sex is lost.
In them 'tis graceful to dissolve at woe;
With every motion, every word, to wave 580
Quick o'er the kindling cheek the ready blush;
And from the smallest violence to shrink
Unequal, then the loveliest in their fears;
And by this silent adulation, soft,
To their protection more engaging Man. 585
O may their eyes no miserable fight,
Save weeping lovers, see! a nobler game,
Thro' Love's enchanting wiles pursued, yet fled,
In chace ambiguous. May their tender limbs
Float in the loose simplicity of dress! 590
And, fashion'd all to harmony, alone
Know they to seize the captivated soul,
In rapture warbled from love-breathing lips;
To teach the lute to languish; with smooth step,
Disclosing motion in its every charm, 595
To swim along, and swell the mazy dance;
To train the foliage o'er the snowy lawn;
To guide the pencil, turn the tuneful page;
To lend new flavour to the fruitful year,
And heighten Nature's dainties; in their race 600
To rear their graces into second life;
To give Society its highest taste;
Well-ordered Home Man's best delight to make;

And by submissive wisdom, modest skill,
 With every gentle care-eluding art, 605
 To raise the virtues, animate the blifs,
 And sweeten all the toils of human life;
 This be the female dignity, and praise.

YE swains now hasten to the hazel-bank;
 Where, down yon dale, the wildly-winding brook
 Falls hoarse from steep to steep. In close array, 611
 Fit for the thickets and the tangling shrub,
 Ye virgins come. For you their latest song
 The woodlands raise; the clustering nuts for you
 The lover finds amid the secret shade; 615
 And, where they burnish on the topmost bough,
 With active vigour crushes down the tree;
 Or shakes them ripe from the resigning husk,
 A glossy shower, and of an ardent brown,
 As are the ringlets of MELINDA'S hair: 620
 MELINDA! form'd with every grace complete,
 Yet these neglecting, above beauty wise,
 And far transcending such a vulgar praise.

HENCE from the busy joy-refounding fields,
 In chearful error, let us tread the maze 625
 Of Autumn, unconfin'd; and taste, reviv'd,
 The breath of orchard big with bending fruit.
 Obedient to the breeze and beating ray,
 From the deep-loaded bough a mellow shower
 Incessant melts away. The juicy pear 630
 Lies, in a soft profusion, scattered round.

A various sweetness swells the gentle race;
By Nature's all-refining hand prepar'd;
Of temper'd sun, and water, earth, and air,
In ever-changing composition mixt. 635

Such, falling frequent thro' the chiller night,
The fragrant stores, the wide-projected heaps
Of apples, which the lusty-handed year,
Innumerable, o'er the blushing orchard shakes,

A various spirit, fresh, delicious, keen, 640
Dwells in their gelid gores; and, active, points
The piercing cyder for the thirsty tongue:

Thy *native* theme, and boon inspirer too,

PHILLIPS, *Pomona's* bard, the second thou
Who nobly durst, in rhyme unfetter'd verse, 645

With BRITISH freedom sing the BRITISH song:

How, from *Silurian* vats, high-sparkling wines

Foam in transparent floods; some strong, to cheer

The wintry revels of the labouring hind;

And tasteful some, to cool the summer-hours. 650

In this glad season, while his sweetest beams

The sun sheds equal o'er the meekened day;

Oh lose me in the green delightful walks

Of, DODINGTON, thy seat, serene and plain;

Where simple Nature reigns; and every view, 655

Diffusive, spreads the pure *Dorsetian* downs,

In boundless prospect; yonder shagg'd with wood,

Here rich with harvest, and there white with flocks!

Mean time the grandeur of thy lofty dome,

Far-splendid, seizes on the ravish'd eye. 660

New beauties rise with each revolving day;
 New columns swells; and still the fresh Spring finds
 New plants to quicken, and new groves to green.
 Full of thy genius all! the Muses' seat:
 Where in the secret bower, and winding walk, 665
 For virtuous YOUNG and thee they twine the bay.
 Here wandering oft, fir'd with the restless thirst
 Of thy applause, I solitary court
 Th' inspiring breeze: and meditate the book
 Of Nature ever open; aiming thence, 670
 Warm from the heart, to learn the moral song.
 Here, as I steal along the sunny wall,
 Where autumn basks, with fruit empurpled deep,
 My pleasing theme continual prompts my thought:
 Presents the downy peach; the shining plum; 675
 The ruddy, fragrant nectarine; and dark,
 Beneath his ample leaf, the luscious fig.
 The vine too here her curling tendrils shoots;
 Hangs out her clusters, glowing to the south;
 And scarcely wishes for a warmer sky. 680

TURN we a moment Fancy's rapid flight
 To vigorous soils, and climes of fair extent;
 Where, by the potent sun elated high,
 The vineyard swells refulgent on the day;
 Spreads o'er the vale; or up the mountain climbs, 685
 Profuse; and drinks amid the sunny rocks,
 From cliff to cliff increas'd, the heightened blaze.
 Low bend the weighty boughs. The clusters clear,
 Half thro' the foliage seen, or ardent flame,

Or shiue transparent; while perfection breathes 690
White o'er the turgent film the living dew.
As thus they brighten with exalted juice,
Touch'd into flavour by the mingling ray;
The rural youth and virgins o'er the field,
Each fond for each to cull th' autumnal prime, 695
Exulting rove, and speak the vintage nigh.
Then comes the crushing swain; the country floats,
And foams unbounded with the mashy flood;
That by degrees fermented, and refin'd,
Round the rais'd nations pours the cup of joy: 700
The claret smooth, red as the lip we press
In sparkling fancy, while we drain the bowl;
The mellow-tasted burgundy; and quick,
As is the wit it gives, the gay, champaign.

Now, by the cool declining year condens'd, 705
Descend the copious exhalations, check'd
As up the middle sky unseen they stole,
And roll the doubling fogs around the hill.
No more the mountain, horrid, vast, sublime,
Who pours a sweep of rivers from his sides, 710
And high between contending kingdoms rears
The rocky long division, fills the view
With great variety; but in a night
Of gathering vapour, from the baffled sense
Sinks dark and dreary. Thence expanding far, 715
The huge dusk, gradual, swallows up the plain;
Vanish the woods; the dim-seen river seems
Sullen, and flow, to roll the misty wave.

Even in the height of noon oppress'd, the sun
 Sheds weak, and blunt, his wide-refracted ray; 720
 Whence glaring oft, with many a broadened orb,
 He frights the nations. Indistinct on earth,
 Seen thro' the turbid air, beyond the life
 Objects appear; and, wilder'd, o'er the waste
 The shepherd stalks gigantic. Till at last 725
 Wreath'd dun around, in deeper circles still
 Successive closing, fits the general fog
 Unbounded o'er the world; and, mingling thick,
 A formless grey confusion covers all.
 As when of old (so sung the HEBREW BARD) 730
 Light, uncollected, thro' the chaos urg'd
 Its infant way; nor Order yet had drawn
 His lovely train from out the dubious gloom.

THESE roving mists, that constant now begin
 To smoak along the hilly country, these 735
 With weighty rains, and melted Alpine snows,
 The mountain-cisterns fill, those ample stores
 Of water, scoop'd among the hollow rocks;
 Whence gush the streams, the ceaseless fountains play,
 And their unfailing wealth the rivers draw. 740
 Some sages say, that where the numerous wave
 For ever lashes the resounding shore,
 Drill'd thro' the sandy stratum, every way,
 The waters with the sandy stratum rise;
 Amid whose angles infinitely strain'd, 745
 They joyfull leave their jaggy salts behind,
 And clear and sweeten, as they soak along.

Nor stops the restless fluid, mounting still,
Though oft amidst th' irriguous vale it springs;
But to the mountain courted by the sand, 750
That leads it darkling on in faithful maze,
Far from the parent-main, it boils again
Fresh into day; and all the glittering hill
Is bright with spouting rills. But hence this vain
Amusive dream! why should the waters love 755
To take so far a journey to the hills,
When the sweet valleys offer to their toil
Inviting quiet, and a nearer bed?
Or if, by blind ambition led astray,
They must aspire; why should they sudden stop 760
Among the broken mountain's rushy dells,
And, ere they gain its highest peak, desert
Th' attractive sand that charm'd their course so long?
Besides, the hard agglomerating salts,
The spoil of ages, would impervious choak 765
Their secret channels; or, by slow degrees,
High as the hills protrude the swelling vales:
Old Ocean too, suck'd thro' the porous globe,
Had long ere now forsook his horrid bed,
And brought *Deucalion's* watry times again. 770

SAY then, where lurk the vast eternal springs,
That, like CREATING NATURE, lie conceal'd
From mortal eye, yet with their lavish stores
Refresh the globe, and all its joyous tribes?
O thou pervading *Genius*, given to Man, 775
To trace the secrets of the dark abyss,

O lay the mountains bare! and wide display
 Their hidden structure to th' astonish'd view!
 Strip from the branching *Alps* their piny load;
 The huge incumbrance of horrific woods 780
 From *Asian Taurus*, from *Imaus* stretch'd
 Athwart the roving *Tartar's* fallen bounds!
 Give opening *Hemus* to my searching eye,
 And high *Olympus* pouring many a stream!
 O from the sounding summits of the north, 785
 The *Dofrine Hills*, thro' *Scandinavia* roll'd
 To farthest *Lapland* and the frozen main;
 From lofty *Caucasus*, far seen by those
 Who in the *Caspian* and black *Euxine* toil;
 From cold *Ripbean Rocks*, which the wild *Russ* 790
 Believes the * *stony girdle* of the world;
 And all the dreadful mountains, wrapt in storm,
 Whence wide *Siberia* draws her lonely floods;
 O sweep th' eternal snows! hung o'er the deep,
 That ever works beneath his sounding base, 795
 Bid *Atlas*, propping heaven, as poets feign,
 His subterranean wonders spread! unveil
 The miny caverns, blazing on the day,
 Of *Abyssinia's* cloud-compelling cliffs,
 And of the bending ** *Mountains of the Moon!* 800
 O'ertopping all these giant-sons of earth,

* The *Moscovites* call the *Ripbean Mountains* *Weliki Cameny-poy*s, that is, *the great stony Girdle*: because they suppose them to encompass the whole earth.

** A range of Mountains in *Africa*, that surround almost all *Monomotapa*.

Let the dire *Andes*, from the radiant Line
Stretch'd to the stormy seas that thunder round
The southern pole, their hideous deeps unfold!
Amazing scene! Behold! the glooms disclose, 805
I see the rivers in their infant beds!
Deep, deep I hear them, lab'ring to get free!
I see the leaning strata, artful rang'd;
The gaping fissures to receive the rains,
The melting snows, and ever-dripping fogs. 810
Strow'd bibulous above I see the sands
The pebbly gravel next, the layers then
Of mingled moulds, of more retentive earths,
The gutter'd rocks and mazy-running clefts;
That, while the stealing moisture they transmit, 815
Retard its motion, and forbid its waste.
Beneath th' incessant weeping of these drains,
I see the rocky siphons stretch'd immense,
The mighty reservoirs, of hardened chalk,
Or stiff compacted clay, capacious form'd. 820
O'erflowing thence, the congregated stores,
The crystal treasures of the liquid world,
Thro' the stirr'd sands a bubbling passage burst;
And welling out, around the middle steep,
Or from the bottoms of the bosom'd hills, 825
In pure effusion flow. United, thus,
Th' exhaling sun, the vapour-burden'd air,
The gelid mountains, that to rain condens'd
These vapours in continual current draw,
And send them, o'er the fair-divided earth, 830
In bounteous rivers to the deep again,

A social commerce hold, and firm support
The full-adjusted harmony of things.

WHEN Autumn scatters his departing gleams,
Warn'd of approaching Winter, gathered, play 835
The swallow-people; and tofs'd wide around,
O'er the calm sky, in convulsion swift,
The feathered eddy floats: rejoicing once,
Ere to their wintry slumbers they retire;
In clusters clung, beneath the mouldring bank, 840
And where, unpierc'd by frost, the cavern sweats.
Or rather into warmer climes convey'd,
With other kindred birds of season, there.
They twitter chearful, till the vernal months
Invite them welcome back: for, thronging, now 845
Innumerable wings are in commotion all.

WHERE the *Rhine* loses his majestic force
In *Belgian* plains, won from the raging deep,
By diligence amazing, and the strong
Unconquerable hand of Liberty, 850
The stork-assembly meets; for many a day,
Consulting deep, and various, ere they take
Their arduous voyage thro' the liquid sky.
And now their rout design'd, their leaders chose,
Their tribes adjusted, clean'd their vigorous wings; 855
And many a circle, many a short essay,
Wheel'd round and round, in congregation full
The figured flight ascends; and, riding high
The aërial billows, mixes with the clouds.

OR where the *Northern* ocean, in vast whirls, 860
 Boils round the naked melancholy isles
 Of farthest *Thulé*, and the *Atlantic* surge
 Pours in among the stormy *Hebrides*;
 Who can recount what transmigrations there
 Are annual made? what nations come and go? 865
 And how the living clouds on clouds arise?
 Infinite wings! till all the plume dark air,
 And rude resounding shore are one wild cry.

HERE the plain harmless native his small flock,
 And herd diminutive of many hues, 870
 Tends on the little island's verdant swell,
 The shepherd's sea girt reign; or, to the rocks
 Dire-clinging, gathers his ovarious food;
 Or sweeps the fishy shore; or treasures up
 The plumage, rising full, to form the bed 875
 Of luxury. And here a while the Muse,
 High hovering o'er the broad cerulean scene,
 Sees CALEDONIA, in romantic view:
 Her airy mountains, from the waving main,
 Invested with a keen diffusive sky, 880
 Breathing the soul acute; her forests huge,
 Incult, robust, and tall, by Nature's hand
 Planted of old; her azure lakes between,
 Pour'd out extensive, and of watry wealth
 Full; winding deep, and green, her fertile vales; 885
 With many a cool translucent brimming flood
 Wash'd lovely, from the *Tweed* (pure parent stream,
 Whose pastoral banks first heard my *Doric* reed,

With, silvan *Fed*, thy tributary brook)
 To where the north inflated tempest foams 890
 O'er *Orca's* or *Betubium's* highest peak:
 Nurse of a people, in misfortune's school
 Train'd up to hardy deeds; soon visited
 By *Learning*, when before the *Gothic* rage
 She took her western flight. A manly race, 895
 Of unsubmitting spirit, wise and brave;
 Who still thro' bleeding ages struggled hard,
 (As well unhappy *WALLACE* can attest,
 Great patriot-hero! ill-requited chief!)
 To hold a generous undiminished state; 900
 Too much in vain! Hence of unequal bounds
 Impatient, and by tempting glory borne
 O'er every land, for every land their life
 Has flow'd profuse, their piercing genius plan'd,
 And swell'd the pomp of peace their faithful toil. 905
 As from their own clear north, in radiant streams,
 Bright over *Europe* bursts the *Boreal Morn*.

Oh is there not some patriot, in whose power
 That best, that godlike *Luxury* is placed,
 Of blessing thousands, thousands yet unborn, 910
 Thro' late posterity? some, large of soul,
 To cheer dejected industry? to give
 A double harvest to the pining swain?
 And teach the labouring hand the sweets of toil?
 How, by the finest art, the native robe 915
 To weave; how, white as hyperborean snow,
 To form the lucid lawn; with venturous oar

How to dash wide the billow; nor look on,
Shamefully passive, while *Batavian* fleets
Defraud us of the glittering finny swarms, 920
That heave our friths, and croud upon our shores;
How all-enlivening trade to rouse, and wing
The prosperous sail, from every growing port,
Uninjur'd, round the sea incircled globe;
And thus, in soul united as in name, 925
Bid BRITAIN reign the mistress of the deep?

YES, there are such. And full on thee, ARGYLL,
Her hope, her stay, her darling, and her boast,
From her first patriots and her heroes sprung,
Thy fond imploring Country turns her eye; 930
In thee, with all a mother's triumph, fees
Her every virtue, every grace combin'd,
Her genius, wisdom, her engaging turn,
Her pride of honour, and her courage try'd,
Calm, and intrepid, in the very throat 935
Of sulphurous war, on *Tenier's* dreadful field,
Nor less the palm of peace inwreathes thy brow:
For, powerful as thy sword, from thy rich tongue
Persuasion flows, and wins the high debate;
While mix'd in thee combine the charm of youth, 940
The force of manhood, and the depth of age.
Thee, FORBES, too, whom every worth attends,
As truth sincere, as weeping friendship kind,
Thee, truly generous, and in silence great,
Thy country feels thro' her reviving arts, 945
Plan'd by thy wisdom, by thy soul inform'd;

And seldom has she known a friend like thee.

BUT see the fading many-colour'd woods,
 Shade deepening over shade, the country round
 Imbrown; a crowded umbrage, dusk, and dun, 950
 Of every hue, from wan declining green
 To sooty dark. These now the lonesome Muse,
 Low-whispering, lead into their leaf strown walks,
 And give the season in its latest view.

MEAN-TIME, light-shadowing all, a sober calm 955
 Fleeces unbounded ether; whose least wave
 Stands tremulous, uncertain where to turn
 The gentle current: while illumin'd wide,
 The dewy skirted clouds imbibe the sun,
 And thro' their lucid veil his softened force 960
 Shed o'er the peaceful world. Then is the time,
 For those whom wisdom and whom Nature charm,
 To steal themselves from the degenerate crowd,
 And soar above this little scene of things;
 'To tread low-thoughted vice beneath their feet; 965
 'To soothe the throbbing passions into peace;
 And woe lone *Quiet* in her silent walks.

THUS solitary, and in pensive guise,
 Oft let me wander o'er the ruffet mead,
 And thro' the saddened grove, where scarce is heard 970
 One dying strain, to cheer the woodman's toil.
 Haply some widowed songster pours his plaint,
 Far, in faint warblings, thro' the tawny copse.

While congregated thrushes, linnets, larks,
And each wild throat, whose artless strains so late 975
Swell'd all the music of the swarming shades,
Robb'd of their tuneful souls, now shivering sit
On the dead tree, a full despondent flock;
With not a brightness waving o'er their plumes,
And nought save chattering discord in their note. 980
O let not, aim'd from some inhuman eye,
The gun the music of the coming year
Destroy; and harmless, unsuspecting harm,
Lay the weak tribes, a miserable prey,
In mingled murder, fluttering on the ground! 985

THE pale descending year, yet pleasing still,
A gentler mood inspires; for now the leaf
Incessant rustles from the mounful grove;
Oft startling such as, studious, walk below,
And slowly circles thro' the waving air. 990
But should a quicker breeze amid the boughs
Sob, o'er the sky the leafy deluge streams;
Till choak'd, and matted with the dreary shower,
The forest-walks, at every rising gale,
Roll wide the wither'd waste, and whistle bleak. 995
Fled is the blushed verdure of the fields;
And, shrunk into their beds, the flowery race
Their sunny robes resign. Even what remain'd
Of stronger fruits falls from the naked tree;
And woods, fields, gardens, orchards, all around 1000
The desolated prospect thrills the soul.

HE comes! he comes! in every breeze the **POWER**
 Of **PHILOSOPHIC MELANCHOLY** comes!
 His near approach the sudden-starting tear,
 The glowing cheek, the mild dejected air, **1005**
 The softened feature, and the beating heart,
 Pierc'd deep with many a virtuous pang, declare.
 O'er all the soul his sacred influence breathes!
 Inflames imagination; thro' the breast
 Infuses every tenderness; and far **1010**
 Beyond dim earth exalts the swelling thought,
 Ten thousand thousand fleet ideas, such
 As never mingled with the vulgar dream,
 Croud fast into the Mind's creative eye.
 As fast the correspondent passions rise, **1015**
 As varied, and as high. Devotion rais'd
 To rapture, and divine astonishment;
 The love of Nature unconfin'd, and, chief,
 Of human race; the large ambitious wish,
 To make them blest; the sigh for suffering worth **1020**
 Lost in obscurity; the noble scorn
 Of tyrant-pride; the fearless great resolve;
 The wonder which the dying patriot draws,
 Inspiring glory thro' remotest time;
 Th' awakened throb for virtue, and for fame; **1025**
 The sympathies of love, and friendship dear;
 With all the *social Offspring of the heart.*

OH bear me then to vast embowering shades,
 To twilight groves, and visionary vales;
 To weeping grottoes, and prophetic glooms; **1030**

Where angel-forms athwart the solemn dusk,
Tremendous sweep, or seem to sweep along;
And voices more than human, thro' the void
Deep-sounding, seize th' enthusiastic ear!

OR is this gloom too much? Then lead, ye powers,
That o'er the garden and the rural seat 1036
Preside, which shining thro' the chearful land
In countless numbers blest BRITANNIA sees;
O lead me to the wide-extended walks,
The fair majestic paradise of STOWE! * 1040
Not *Persian Cyrus* on *Ionia's* shore
E'er saw such silvan scenes; such various art
By genius fir'd, such ardent genius tam'd
By cool judicious art; that, in the strife,
All-beauteous Nature fears to be outdone. 1045
And there, O PITT, thy country's early boast,
There let me sit beneath the sheltered slopes,
Or in that ** *Temple* where, in future times,
Thou well shalt merit a distinguish'd name;
And, with thy converse blest, catch the last smiles 1050
Of Autumn beaming o'er the yellow woods.
While there with thee th' enchanted round I walk,
The regulated wild, gay Fancy then
Will tread in thought the groves of *Attic Land*;
Will from thy standard taste refine her own, 1055
Correct her pencil to the purest truth
Of Nature, or, the unimpassion'd shades

* The seat of the Lord Viscount Cobham.

** The Temple of Virtue in *Stowe Gardens*.

Forfaking, raise it to the human mind,
 Or if hereafter she, with *juster* hand,
 Shall draw the tragic scene, instruct her thou, 1060
 To mark the varied movements of the heart,
 What every decent character requires,
 And every passion speaks: O thro' her strain
 Breathe thy pathetic eloquence! that moulds
 Th' attentive senate, charms, persuades, exalts, 1065
 Of honest zeal th' indignant lightning throws,
 And shakes corruption on her venal throne.
 While thus we talk, and thro' *Elysian Vales*
 Delighted rove, perhaps a sigh escapes:
 What pity, COBHAM, thou thy verdant files 1070
 Of ordered trees shouldst here inglorious range,
 Instead of squadrons flaming o'er the field,
 And long embattled hosts! when the proud foe,
 The faithless vain disturber of mankind,
 Insulting *Gaul*, has rous'd the world to war; 1075
 When keen, once more, within their bounds to press
 Those polish'd robbers, those ambitious slaves,
 The BRITISH YOUTH would hail thy wise command,
 Thy temper'd ardour and thy veteran skill.

THE western sun withdraws the shortened day; 1080
 And humid evening, gliding o'er the sky,
 In her chill progress, to the ground condens'd
 The vapours throws. Where creeping waters ooze,
 Where marshes stagnate, and where rivers wind,
 Cluster the rolling fogs, and swim along 1085
 The dusky mantled lawn. Mean-while the moon

Full-orb'd, and breaking thro' the scatter'd clouds,
Shews her broad visage in the crimson'd east.
Turn'd to the sun direct, her spotted disk,
Where mountains rise, umbrageous dales descend, 1090
And caverns deep, as optic tube descries,
A smaller earth, gives us his blaze again,
Void of its flame, and sheds a softer day.
Now thro' the passing cloud she seems to stoop,
Now up the pure cerulean rides sublime. 1095
Wide the pale deluge floats, and streaming mild
O'er the sky'd mountain to the shadowy vale,
While rocks and floods reflect the quivering gleam,
The whole air whitens with a boundless tide
Of silver radiance, trembling round the world. 1100

BUT when half blotted from the sky her light,
Fainting, permits the starry fires to burn
With keener lustre thro' the depth of heaven;
Or near extinct her deadened orb appears,
And scarce appears, of sickly beamleis white; 1105
Oft in this season, silent from the north
A blaze of meteors shoots: ensweeping first
The lower skies, they all at once converge
High to the crown of heaven, and all at once
Relapsing quick as quickly reascend, 1110
And mix, and thwart, extinguish, and renew,
All ether coursing in a maze of light.

FROM look to look, contagious thro' the crowd,
The panic runs, and into wondrous shapes

Th' appearance throws: Armies in meet array, 1115
 Throng'd with aërial spears, and steeds of fire;
 Till the long lines of full-extended war
 In bleeding fight commixt, the sanguine flood
 Rolls a broad slaughter o'er the plains of heaven.
 As thus they scan the visionary scene, 1120
 On all sides swells the superstitious din,
 Incontinent; and busy frenzy talks
 Of blood and battle; cities overturn'd;
 And late at night in swallowing earthquake sunk,
 Or hideous wrapt in fierce ascending flame; 1125
 Of fallow famine, inundation, storm;
 Of pestilence, and every great distress;
 Empires subvers'd, when ruling fate has struck
 The unalterable hour: even Natur's self
 Is deem'd to totter on the brink of time, 1130
 Not so the Man of philosophic eye,
 And inspect sage; the waving brightness he
 Curious surveys, inquisitive to know
 The causes, and materials, yet unfix'd,
 Of this appearance beautiful and new. 1135

Now black, and deep, the night begins to fall,
 A shade immense. Sunk in the quenching gloom,
 Magnificent and vast, are heaven and earth.
 Order confounded lies; all beauty void;
 Distinction lost; and gay variety 1140
 One universal blot: such the fair power
 Of light, to kindle and create the whole.
 Drear is the state of the benighted wretch,

Who then, bewilder'd, wanders thro' the dark,
Full of pale fancies, and chimeras huge; 1145
Nor visited by one directive ray,
From cottage streaming, or from airy hall.
Perhaps impatient as he stumbles on,
Struck from the root of slimy rushes, blue,
The wild-fire scatters round, or gathered trails 1150
A length of flame deceitful o'er the moss:
Whither decoy'd by the fantastic blaze,
Now lost and now renew'd, he sinks absorpt,
Rider and horse, amid the miry gulph:
While still, from day to day, his pining wife, 1155
And plaintive children his return await,
In wild conjecture lost. At other times,
Sent by the *better Genius* of the night,
Innoxious, gleaming on the horse's mane,
The meteor fits; and shews the narrow path, 1160
That winding leads thro' pits of death, or else
Instructs him how to take the dangerous ford.

THE lenghtened night elaps'd, the morning shines
Serene, in all her dewy beauty bright,
Unfolding fair the last autumnal day. 1165
And now the mounting sun dispels the fog;
The rigid hoar-frost melts before his beam;
And hung on every spray, on every blade
Of grass, the myriad dew-drops twinkle round.

AH see where robb'd, and murder'd, in that pit 1170
Lies the still heaving hive! at evening snatch'd,

Beneath the cloud of guilt-concealing night,
And fix'd o'er sulphur: while, not dreaming ill,
The happy people, in their waxen cells,
Sat tending public cares, and planning schemes 1175
Of temperance, for Winter poor; rejoiced
To mark, full flowing round, their copious stores.
Sudden the dark oppressive steam ascends;
And, us'd to milder scents, the tender race,
By thousands, tumble from their honeyed domes, 1180
Convolv'd, and agonizing in the dust.
And was it then for this you roam'd the Spring,
Intent from flower to flower? for this you toil'd
Ceaseless the burning Summer-heats away?
For this in Autumn search'd the blooming waste, 1185
Nor lost one sunny gleam? for this sad fate?
O Man! tyrannic lord! how long, how long,
Shall prostrate Nature groan beneath your rage,
Awaiting renovation? When obliged,
Must you destroy? Of their ambrosial food 1190
Can you not borrow; and, in just return,
Afford them shelter from the wintry winds;
Or, as the sharp year pinches, with their own
Again regale them on some smiling day?
See where the stony bottom of their town 1195
Looks desolate, and wild; with here and there
A helpless number, who the ruin'd state
Survive, lamenting weak, cast out to death.
Thus a proud city, populous and rich,
Full of the works of peace, and high in joy, 1200
At theatre or feast, or sunk in sleep,

(As late, *Palermo*, was thy fate) is seiz'd
 By some dread earthquake, and convulsive hurl'd
 Sheer from the black foundation, stench-involv'd,
 Into a gulph of blue sulphureous flame. 1205

HENCE every harsher sight! for now the day,
 O'er heaven and earth diffus'd, grows warm, and high,
 Infinite splendor! wide investing all.
 How still the breeze! save what the filmy threads
 Of dew evaporate brushes from the plain. 1210
 How clear the cloudless sky! how deeply ting'd
 With a peculiar blue! the ethereal arch
 How swell'd immense! amid whose azure thron'd
 The radiant sun how gay! how calm below
 The gilded earth! the harvest treasures all 1215
 Now gather'd in, beyond the rage of storms,
 Sure to the swain; the circling fence shut up;
 And instant Winter's utmost rage defy'd.
 While, loose to festive joy, the country round
 Laughs with the loud sincerity of mirth. 1220
 Shook to the wind their cares. The toil-strung youth
 By the quick sense of music taught alone,
 Leaps wildly graceful in the lively dance.
 Her every charm abroad, the village toast,
 Young, buxom, warm, in native beauty rich, 1225
 Darts not-unmeaning looks; and, where her eye
 Points an approving smile, with double force,
 The cudgel rattles, and the wrestler twines.
 Age too shines out; and, garrulous, recounts
 The feats of youth. Thus they rejoice; nor think

That, with to-morrow's sun, their annual toil 1231
Begins again the never-ceasing round.

Oh knew he but his happiness, of Men
The happiest he! who far from public rage,
Deep in the vale, with a *choice Few* retir'd, 1235
Drinks the pure pleasures of the RURAL LIFE.
What tho' the dome be wanting, whose proud gate,
Each morning, vomits out the sneaking crowd
Of flatterers false, and in their turn abus'd?
Vile intercourse! What tho' the glittering robe, 1240
Of every hue reflected light can give,
Or floating loose, or stiff with mazy gold,
The pride and gaze of fools! oppress him not?
What tho', from utmost land and sea purvey'd,
For him each rarer tributary life 1245
Bleeds not, and his insatiate table heaps
With luxury, and death? What tho' his bowl,
Flames not with costly juice; nor sunk in beds,
Oft of gay care, he tosses out the night,
Or melts the thoughtless hours in idle state? 1250
What tho' he knows not those fantastic joys,
That still amuse the wanton, still deceive;
A face of pleasure, but a heart of pain;
Their hollow moments undelighted all?
Sure peace is his; a solid life, estranged 1255
To disappointment, and fallacious hope:
Rich in content, in Nature's bounty rich,
In herbs and fruits; whatever greens the Spring,
When heaven descends in showers; or bends the bough

When Summer reddens, and when Autumn beams;
Or in the wintry glebe whatever lies 1261
Conceal'd, and fattens with the richest sap:
These are not wanting; nor the milky drove,
Luxuriant, spread o'er all the lowing vale;
Nor bleating mountains; nor the chide of streams,
And hum of bees, inviting sleep sincere 1266
Into the guiltless breast, beneath the shade,
Or thrown at large amid the fragrant hay;
Nor ought besides of prospect, grove, or song,
Dim grottoes, gleaming lakes, and fountain clear. 1270
Here too dwells simple truth; plain innocence;
Unfollied beauty; sound unbroken youth,
Patient of labour, with a little pleas'd;
Health ever blooming; unambitious toil;
Calm contemplation, and poetic ease. 1275

LET others brave the flood in quest of gain,
And beat, for joyless months, the gloomy wave.
Let such as deem it glory to destroy,
Rush into blood, the sack of cities seek;
Unpierc'd, exulting in the widow's wail, 1280
'The virgin's shriek, and infant's trembling cry.
Let some, far-distant from their native soil,
Urg'd or by want or hardened avarice,
Find other lands beneath another sun.
Let *this* through cities work his eager way, 1285
By legal outrage and establish'd guile,
The social sense extinct; and *that* ferment
Mad into tumult the seditious herd,

Or melt them down to slavery. Let *these*
 Infuse the wretched in the toils of law, 1290
 Fomenting discord, and perplexing right,
 An iron race! and *those* of fairer front,
 But equal inhumanity, in courts,
 Delusive pomp, and dark cabals, delight;
 Wreath the deep bow, diffuse the lying smile, 1295
 And tread the weary labyrinth of state.
 While he, from all the stormy passions free
 That restless Men involve, hears, and but hears,
 At distance safe, the human tempest roar,
 Wrapt close in conscious peace. The fall of kings,
 The rage of nations, and the crush of states, 1301
 Move not the Man, who, from the world escap'd,
 In still retreats, and flowery solitudes,
 To Nature's voice attends, from month to month,
 And day to day, thro' the revolving year; 1305
 Admiring, sees her in her every shape;
 Feels all her sweet emotions at his heart;
 Takes what she liberal gives, nor thinks of more.
 He, when young Spring protrudes the bursting gems,
 Marks the first bud, and sucks the healthful gale 1310
 Into his freshened soul; her genial hours
 He full enjoys; and not a beauty blows,
 And not an opening blossom breathes in vain.
 In Summer he, beneath the living shade,
 Such as o'er frigid *Tempe* wont to wave. 1315
 Or *Hemus* cool, reads what the Muse, of these
 Perhaps, has in immortal numbers sung;
 Or what she dictates writes: and, oft an eye

Shot round, rejoices in the vigorous year.
When Autumn's yellow lustre gilds the world, 1320
And tempts the fickle swain into the field,
Seiz'd by the general joy, his heart distends
With gentle throws; and, thro' the tepid gleams
Deep musing, then he *best* exerts his song.
Even Winter wild to him is full of bliss. 1325
The mighty tempest, and the hoary waste,
Abrupt, and deep, stretch'd o'er the buried earth;
Awake to solemn thought. At night the skies,
Disclos'd, and kindled, by refining frost,
Pour every lustre on th' exalted eye. 1330
A friend, a book, the stealing hours secure,
And mark them down for wisdom. With swift wing,
O'er land and sea imagination roams;
Or truth, divinely breaking on his mind,
Elates his being, and unfolds his powers; 1335
Or in his breast heroic virtue burns.
The touch of kindred too and love he feels;
The modest eye, whose beams on his alone
Extatic shine; the little strong embrace
Of prattling children, twin'd around his neck, 1340
And emulous to please him, calling forth
The fond parental soul. Nor purpose gay,
Amusement, dance, or song, he sternly scorns;
For happiness and true philosophy
Are of the social still, and smiling kind. 1345
This is the life which those who fret in guilt,
And guilty cities, never knew; the life,
Led by primeval ages, uncorrupt,

When angels dwelt, and God himself, with Man!

OH NATURE! all-sufficient! over all! 1350
 Enrich me with the knowledge of thy works!
 Snatch me to heaven; thy rolling wonders there,
 World beyond world, in infinite extent,
 Profusely scattered o'er the blue immense,
 Shew me; their motions, periods, and their laws,
 Give me to scan; thro' the disclosing deep 1356
 Light my blind way: the mineral *strata* there;
 Thrust, blooming, thence the vegetable world;
 O'er that the rising system, more complex,
 Of animals; and higher still, the mind, 1360
 The varied scene of quick-compounded thought,
 And where the mixing passions endless shift;
 These ever open to my ravish'd eye;
 A search, the flight of time can ne'er exhaust!
 But if to that unequal; if the blood, 1365
 In sluggish streams about my heart, forbid
 That *best* ambition; under closing shades,
 Inglorious, lay me by the lowly brook,
 And whisper to my dreams. From THEE begin,
 Dwell all on THEE, with THEE conclude my songs
 And let me never never stray from THEE! 1371

W I N T E R.

THE ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Address to the earl of WILMINGTON. First approach of Winter. According to the natural course of the season, various storms described. Rain. Wind. Snow. The driving of the snows: A Man perishing among them; whence reflections on the wants and miseries of human life. The wolves descending from the Alps and Apennines. A winter evening described: as spent by philosophers; by the country people; in the city. Frost. A view of Winter within the polar Circle. A thaw. The whole concluding with moral reflections on a future state.

W I N T E R.

SEE, WINTER comes, to rule the varied year.
Sullen and sad, with all his rising train;
Vapours, and Clouds, and Storms. Be these my theme,
These! that exalt the soul to solemn thought,
And heavenly musing. Welcome, kindred glooms! 5
Congenial horrors, hail! with frequent foot,
Pleas'd have I, in my cheerful morn of life,
When nurs'd by careless solitude I liv'd,
And sung of Nature with unceasing joy,
Pleas'd have I wander'd thro' your rough domaine; 10
Trod the pure virgin-snows, myself as pure;
Heard the winds roar, and the big torrent burst;
Or seen the deep fermenting tempest brew'd,
In the grim evening sky. Thus pass'd the time,
Till thro' the lucid chambers of the south 15
Look'd out the joyous SPRING, look'd out, and smil'd.

To thee, the patron of *her first* essay,
The Muse, O WILMINGTON! renews her song.
Since has she rounded the revolving year:
Skim'd the gay Spring; on eagle-pinions borne, 20
Attempted thro' the Summer-blaze to rise;
Then swept o'er Autumn with the shadowy gale;
And now among the wintry clouds again,
Roll'd in the doubling storm, she tries to soar;
To swell her note with all the rushing winds; 25

To suit her founding cadence to the floods;
 As is her theme, her numbers wildly great:
 Thrice happy! could she fill thy judging ear
 With bold description, and with manly thought.
 Nor art thou skill'd in awful schemes alone, 30
 And how to make a mighty people thrive:
 But equal goodness, sound integrity,
 A firm unshaken uncorrupted soul
 Amid a sliding age, and burning strong,
 Not vainly blazing for the country's weal, 35
 A steady spirit regularly free;
 These, each exalting each, the statesman light
 Into the patriot; these, the public hope
 And eye to thee converting, bid the Muse
 Record what envy dares not flattery call. 40

Now when the cheerless empire of the sky
 To *Capricorn* the *Centaur Archer* yields,
 And fierce *Aquarius*, stains th' inverted year;
 Hung o'er the farthest verge of heaven, the sun
 Scarce spreads thro' ether the dejected day. 45
 Faint are his gleams, and ineffectual shoot
 His struggling rays, in horizontal lines,
 Thro' the thick air; as cloath'd in cloudy storm,
 Weak, wan, and broad, he skirts the southern sky;
 And, soon descending, to the long dark night, 50
 Wide shading all, the prostrate world resigns.
 Nor is the night unwish'd; while vital heat,
 Light, life, and joy, the dubious day forsake.
 Mean-time, in sable cincture, shadows vast,

Deep-ting'd and damp, and congregated clouds, 55
And all the vapoury turbulence of heaven,
Involve the face of things. Thus Winter falls,
A heavy gloom oppressive o'er the world,
Thro' Nature shedding influence malign,
And rouses up the seeds of dark disease. 60
The soul of Man dies in him, loathing life,
And black with more than melancholy views.
The cattle droop; and o'er the furrowed land
Fresh from the plough, the dun discolour'd flocks,
Untended spreading, crop the wholesome root. 65
Along the woods, along the moorish fens,
Sighs the sad *Genius* of the coming storm;
And up among the loose disjointed cliffs,
And fractur'd mountains wild, the brawling brook
And cave, presageful, send a hollow moan. 70
Resounding long in listening Fancy's ear.

THEN comes the father of the tempest forth,
Wrapt in black glooms. First joyless rains obscure
Drive thro' the mingling skies with vapour foul;
Dash on the mountain's brow, and shake the woods.
That grumbling wave below. The unfightly plain 75
Lies a brown deluge; as the low-bent clouds
Pour flood on flood, yet unexhausted still
Combine, and deepening into night shut up
The day's fair face. The wanderers of heaven, 80
Each to his home, retire; save those that love
To take their pastime in the troubled air,
Or skimming flutter round the dimply pool.

The cattle from the untasted fields return,
 And ask, with meaning lowe, their wonted stalls, 85
 Or ruminatè in the contiguous shade.
 Thither the household feathery people crowd,
 The crested cock, with all his female train,
 Pensive, and dripping; while the cottage hind
 Hangs o'er th' enlivening blaze, and taleful there 90
 Recounts his simple frolic: much he talks,
 And much he laughs, nor recks the storm that blows
 Without, and rattles on his humble roof.

WIDE o'er the brim, with many a torrent swell'd,
 And the mix'd ruin of its banks o'erspread, 95
 At last the rous'd up river pours along:
 Resistless, roaring, dreadful, down it comes,
 From the rude mountain, and the mossy wild,
 Tumbling thro' rocks abrupt, and sounding far;
 Then o'er the fanned valley floating spreads, 100
 Calm, fluggish, silent; till again, constrain'd
 Between two meeting hills, it bursts away,
 Where rocks and woods o'erhang the turbid stream;
 There gathering triple force, rapid, and deed, 104
 It boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders through.

NATURE! great parent! whose unceasing hand
 Rolls round the Seasons of the changeful year,
 How mighty, how majestic, are thy works!
 With what a pleasing dread they swell the soul!
 That sees astonish'd! and astonish'd sings! 110
 Yet too, ye winds! that now begin to blow,

With boisterous sweep, I raise my voice to you,
Where are your stores, ye powerful beings! say,
Where your aerial magazines reserv'd,
To swell the brooding terrors of the storm? 115
In what far distant region of the sky,
Hush'd in deep silence, sleep ye when 'tis calm?

WHEN from the pallid sky the sun descends,
With many a spot, that o'er his glaring orb
Uncertain wanders, stain'd; red fiery streaks 120
Begin to flush around. The reeling clouds
Stagger with dizzy poise, as doubting yet
Which master to obey: while rising flow,
Blank, in the leaden-colour'd east, the moon
Wears a wan circle round her blunted horns. 125
Seen thro' the turbid fluctuating air,
The stars obtuse emit a shivered ray;
Or frequent seem to shoot athwart the gloom,
And long behind them trail the whitening blaze.
Snatch'd in short eddies, plays the wither'd leaf; 130
And on the flood the dancing feather floats.
With broadened nostrils to the sky up-turn'd,
The conscious heifer snuffs the stormy gale.
Even as the matron, at her nightly task,
With pensive labour draws the flaxen thread, 135
The wasted taper and the crackling flame
Foretell the blast. But chief the plummy race,
The tenants of the sky, its changes speak.
Retiring from the downs, where all day long
They pick'd their scanty fare, a blackening train 140

Of clamorous rooks thick-urge their weary flight,
 And seek the closing shelter of the grove;
 Assiduous, in his bower, the wailing owl
 Plies his sad song. The cormorant on high 144
 Wheels from the deep, and screams along the land.
 Loud shrieks the soaring hern; and with wild wing
 The circling sea-fowl cleave the flaky clouds.
 Ocean, unequal press'd, with broken tide
 And blind commotion heaves; while from the shore,
 Eat into caverns by the restless wave, 150
 And forest rustling mountain, comes a voice,
 That solemn sounding bids the world prepare.
 Then issues forth the storm with sudden burst,
 And hurls the whole precipitated air,
 Down, in a torrent. On the passive main 155
 Descends th' ethereal force, and with strong gust
 Turns from its bottom the discolour'd deep.
 Thro' the black night that sits immense around,
 Lash'd into foam, the fierce conflicting brine
 Seems o'er a thousand raging waves to burn: 160
 Mean-time the mountain-billows, to the clouds
 In dreadful tumult swell'd, surge above surge,
 Burst into chaos with tremendous roar,
 And anchor'd navies from their stations drive,
 Wild as the winds across the howling waste 165
 Of mighty waters: now th' inflated wave
 Straining they scale, and now impetuous shoot
 Into the secret chambers of the deep,
 The wintry *Baltick* thundering o'er their head.
 Emerging thence again, before the breath 170

Of full-exerted heaven they wing their course,
And dart on distant coasts; if some sharp rock,
Or shoal insidious break not their career,
And in loose fragments fling them floating round.

NOR less at land the loosened tempest reigns. 175
The mountain thunders; and its sturdy sons
Stoop to the bottom of the rocks they shade.
Lone on the midnight steep, and all aghast,
The dark way-faring stranger breathless toils,
And, often falling, climbs against the blast. 180
Low waves the rooted forest, vex'd, and sheds
What of its tarnish'd honours yet remain;
Dash'd down, and scattered, by the tearing wind's
Assiduous fury, its gigantic limbs.
Thus struggling thro the dissipated grove, 185
The whirling tempest raves along the plain;
And on the cottage thatch'd, or lordly roof,
Keen fastening, shakes them to the solid base.
Sleep frightened flies; and round the rocking dome,
For entrance eager, howls the savage blast. 190
Then too, they say, thro' all the burthen'd air,
Long groans are heard, shrill sounds, and distant sighs,
That, uttered by the Demon of the night,
Warn the devoted wretch of woe and death.

HUGE uproar lords it wide. The clouds commix'd
With stars swift gliding sweep along the sky. 196
All Nature reels. Till Nature's KING, who oft
Amid tempestuous darkness dwells alone,

And on the wings of the careering wind
 Walks dreadfully serene, commands a calm; 200
 Then straight air, sea and earth, are hush'd at once.

As yet 'tis midnight deep. The weary clouds,
 Slow-meeting, mingle into solid gloom.
 Now, while the drowsy world lies lost in sleep,
 Let me associate with the serious *Night*, 205
 And *Contemplation* her sedate compeer;
 Let me shake off th' intrusive cares of day,
 And lay the meddling senses all aside.

WHERE now, ye lying vanities of life!
 Ye ever-tempting ever-cheating train! 210
 Where are you now? and what is your amount?
 Vexation, disappointment, and remorse,
 Sad, sickening thought! and yet deluded Man,
 A scene of crude disjointed visions past,
 And broken slumbers, rises still resolv'd, 215
 With new-flush'd hopes, to run the giddy round.

FATHER of light and life, thou GOOD SUPREME!
 O teach me what is good! teach me THYSELF!
 Save me from folly, vanity, and vice,
 From every low pursuit! and feed my soul 220
 With knowledge, conscious peace, and virtue pure;
 Sacred, substantial, never-fading bliss!

'THE keener tempests rise: and fuming dun
 From all the livid east, or piercing north,

Thick clouds ascend; in whose capacious womb 225
A vapoury deluge lies, to snow congeal'd.
Heavy they roll their fleecy world along;
And the sky saddens with the gathered storm.
Thro' the hush'd air the whitening shower descends,
At first thin wavering; 'till at last the flakes 230
Fall broad, and wide, and fast, dimming the day,
With a continual flow. The cherish'd fields
Put on their winter-robe of purest white.
'Tis brightness all; save where the new snow melts
Along the mazy current. Low, the woods 235
Bow their hoar head; and, ere the languid sun
Faint from the west emits his evening ray,
Earth's universal face, deep hid, and chill,
Is one wild dazzling waste, that buries wide
The works of Man. Drooping, the labourer-ox 240
Stands cover'd o'er with snow, and then demands
The fruit of all his toil. The fowls of heaven,
Tam'd by the cruel season, croud around
The winnowing store, and claim the little boon
Which PROVIDENCE assigns them. One alone, 245
The red-breast, sacred to the household gods,
Wisely regardful of th' embroiling sky,
In joyless fields and thorny thickets leaves
His shivering mates, and pays to trusted Man
His annual visit. Half-afraid, he first 250
Against the window beats; then, brisk, alights
On the warm hearth; then, hopping o'er the floor,
Eyes all the smiling family askance,
And pecks, and starts, and wonders where he is:

'Till more familiar grown, the table-crums 255
 Attract his slender feet. The foodless wilds
 Pour forth their brown inhabitants. The hare,
 Tho' timorous of heart, and hard beset
 By death in various forms, dark snares, and dogs,
 And more unpitying Men, the garden seeks, 260
 Urg'd on by fearless want. The bleating kind
 Eye the bleak heaven, and next the glistening earth,
 With looks of dumb despair; then, sad-dispers'd,
 Dig for the withered herb thro' heaps of snow.

Now, shepherds, to your helpless charge be kind,
 Baffle the raging year, and fill their pens 266
 With food at will; lodge them below the storm,
 And watch them strict: for from the bellowing east,
 In this dire season, oft the whirlwind's wing
 Sweeps up the burthen of whole wintry plains 270
 At one wide waft, and o'er the hapless flocks,
 Hid in the hollow of two neighbouring hills,
 The billowy tempest whelms; 'till, upward urg'd,
 The valley to a shining mountain swells,
 Tipt with a wreath high-curling in the sky. 275

As thus the snows arise; and foul, and fierce,
 All Winter drives along the darkened air;
 In his own loose-revolving fields, the swain
 Disaster'd stands; sees other hills ascend,
 Of unknown joyless brow; and other scenes, 280
 Of horrid prospect, shag the trackless plain;
 Nor finds the river, nor the forest, hid

Beneath the formless wild; but wanders on
From hill to dale, still more and more astray;
Impatient flouncing thro' the drifted heaps, 285
Stung with the thoughts of home; the thoughts of home
Rush on his nerves, and call their vigour forth
In many a vain attempt. How sinks his soul!
What black despair, what horror fills his heart!
When for the dusky spot, which fancy feign'd 290
His tufted cottage rising thro' the snow,
He meets the roughness of the middle waste,
Far from the track, and blest abode of Man;
While round him night resistless closes fast,
And every tempest, howling o'er his head, 295
Renders the savage wilderness more wild.
Then throng the busy shapes into his mind,
Of cover'd pits, unfathomably deep,
A dire descent! beyond the power of frost,
Of faithless bogs; of precipices huge, 300
Smooth'd up with snow; and, what island, unknown,
What water, of the still unfrozen spring,
In the loose marsh or solitary lake,
Where the fresh fountain from the bottom boils.
These check his fearful steps; and down he sinks 305
Beneath the shelter of the shapeless drift,
Thinking o'er all the bitterness of death,
Mix'd with the tender anguish Nature shoots
Thro' the wrung bosom of the dying Man,
His wife, his children, and his friends unseen. 310
In vain for him th' officious wife prepares
The fire fair-blazing. and the vestment warm;

In vain his little children, peeping out
 Into the mingling storm, demand their fire,
 With tears of artless innocence. Alas! 315
 Nor wife, nor children, more shall he behold,
 Nor friends, nor sacred home. On every nerve
 'The deadly winter seizes; shuts up sense;
 And, o'er his inmost vitals creeping cold,
 Lays him along the snows, a stiffened corse. 320
 Stretch'd out, and bleaching in the northern blast.

Ah little think the gay licentious proud.
 Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround;
 They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
 And wanton, often cruel, riot waste; 325
 Ah little think they, while they dance along,
 How many feel, this very moment, death
 And all the sad variety of pain.
 How many sink in the devouring flood,
 Or more devouring flame. How many bleed, 330
 By shameful variance betwixt Man and Man.
 How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms;
 Shut from the common air, and common use
 Of their own limbs. How many drink the cup
 Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread 335
 Of misery, Sore pierc'd by wintry winds,
 How many shrink into the sordid hut
 Of cheerless poverty. How many shake
 With all the fiercer tortures of the mind,
 Unbounded passion, madness, guilt, remorse; 340
 Whence tumbled headlong from the height of life,

They furnish matter for the tragic Muse.
 Even in the vale, where wisdom loves to dwell,
 With friendship, peace, and contemplation join'd,
 How many, rack'd with honest passions, droop 345
 In deep retir'd distress. How many stand
 Around the death-bed of their dearest friends,
 And point the parting anguish. Thought fond Man
 Of these, and all the thousand nameless ills,
 That one incessant struggle render life, 350
 One scene of toil, of suffering and of fate,
 Vice in his high career would stand appall'd,
 And heedless rambling Impulse learn to think;
 'The conscious heart of Charity would warm,
 And her wide wish Benevolence dilate; 355
 The social tear would rise, the social sigh;
 And into clear perfection, gradual bliss,
 Refining still, the social passions work.

AND here can I forget the generous * band,
 Who, touch'd with human woe, redressive search'd 360
 Into the horrors of the gloomy jail?
 Unpitied, and unheard, where misery moans;
 Where sickness pines; where thirst and hunger burn,
 And poor misfortune feels the lash of vice.
 While in the land of liberty, the land 365
 Whose every street and public meeting glow
 With open freedom, little tyrants rag'd;
 Snatch'd the lean morsel from the starving mouth;
 Tore from cold wintry limbs the tatter'd weed;

*) The Jail Committee, in the Year 1729.

Even robb'd them of the last of comforts, sleep; 370
 The free-born BRITON to the dungeon chain'd,
 Or, as the lust of cruelty prevail'd,
 At pleasure mark'd him with inglorious stripes;
 And crush'd out lives, by secret barbarous ways,
 That for their country would have toil'd, or bled. 375
 O great design! if executed well,
 With patient care, and wisdom-temper'd zeal.
 Ye sons of mercy! yet resume the search;
 Drag forth the legal monsters into light,
 Wrench from their hands oppression's iron rod, 380
 And bid the cruel feel the pains they give.
 Much still untouch'd remains; in this rank age,
 Much is the patriot's weeding hand requir'd.
 The toils of law, (what dark insidious Men
 Have combrous added to perplex the truth, 385
 And lengthen simple justice into trade)
 How glorious were the day! that saw these broke,
 And every Man within the reach of right.

By wintry famine rous'd, from all the tract
 Of horrid mountains which the shining *Alps*, 390
 And wavy *Appenine*, and *Pyrenees*,
 Branch out stupendous into distant lands;
 Cruel as death, and hungry as the grave!
 Burning for blood! bony, and ghaunt, and grim!
 Assembling wolves in raging troops descend; 395
 And, pouring o'er the country, bear along,
 Keen as the north-wind sweeps the glossy snow,
 All is their prize. They fasten on the steed,

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Press him to earth, and pierce his mighty heart,
Nor can the bull his awful front defend, 400
Or shake the murdering savages away.

Rapacious, at the mother's throat they fly,
And tear the screaming infant from her breast.

The godlike face of Man avails him nought.
Even beauty, force divine! at whose bright glance 405

The generous lion stands in softened gaze,
Here bleeds, a hapless undistinguish'd prey.

But if, appriz'd of the severe attack,
The country be shut up, lur'd by the scent,
On church yards drear (inhuman to relate!) 410

The disappointed prowlers fall, and dig
The shrouded body from the grave; o'er which,
Mix'd with foul shades, and frightened ghost, they howl.

AMONG those hilly regions, where embrac'd
In peaceful vales the happy *Grisons* dwell; 415
Oft, rushing sudden from the loaded cliffs,
Mountains of snow their gathering terrors roll.
From steep to steep, loud-thundering down they come,
A wintry waste in dire commotion all;
And herds, and flocks, and travellers, and swain, 420
And sometimes whole brigades of marching troops,
Or hamlets sleeping in the dead of night,
Are deep beneath the smothering ruin whelm'd.

Now, all amid the rigours of the year,
In the wild depth of Winter, while without 425
The ceaseless winds blow ice, be my retreat,

Betwixt the groaning forest and the shore
 Beat by the boundless multitude of waves,
 A rural, shelter'd, solitary scene;
 Where ruddy fire and beaming tapers join, 430
 To cheer the gloom. There studious let me sit,
 And hold high converse with the MIGHTY DEAD;
 Sages of ancient time, as gods rever'd,
 As gods beneficent, who blest mankind
 With arts, with arms, and humaniz'd a world. 435
 Rous'd at th' inspiring thought, I throw aside
 The long liv'd volume; and, deep-musing, hail
 The sacred shades, that slowly-rising pass
 Before my wondering eyes. First SOCRATES,
 Who, firmly good in a corrupted state, 440
 Against the rage of tyrants single stood,
 Invincible! calm Reason's holy law,
 That *Voice* of GOD within th' attentive mind,
 Obeying, fearless, or in life, or death:
 Great moral teacher! *Wise*st of Mankind! 445
 SOLON the next, who built his common-weal
 On equity's wide base; by *tender laws*
 A lively people curbing, yet undamp'd
 Preserving still that quick peculiar fire,
 Whence in the laurel'd field of finer arts, 450
 And of bold freedom, they unequal'd shone,
 The pride of smiling GREECE, and human-kind.
 LYCURGUS then, who bow'd beneath the force
 Of strict discipline, *severely wise*,
 All human passions. Following him, I see, 455
 As at *Thermopylae* he glorious fell,

The firm* DEVOTED CHIEF, who prov'd by deeds
 The hardest lesson which the *other* taught.
 Then ARISTIDES lifts his honest front;
 Spotless of heart, to whom th' unflattering voice 460
 Of freedom gave the noblest name of *Just*;
 In pure majestic poverty rever'd;
 Who, even his glory to his country's weal
 Submitting, swell'd a haughty ** *Rival's* fame.
 Rear'd by his care, of softer ray appears 465
 CIMON sweet soul'd; whose genius, rising strong,
 Shook off the load of young debauch; abroad
 The scourge of *Persian* pride, at home the friend
 Of every worth and every splendid art;
 Modest, and simple, in the pomp of wealth. 470
 Then the last worthies of declining GREECE,
 Late call'd to glory, in *unequal* times,
 Pensive, appear. The fair *Corinthian* boast,
 TIMOLEON, happy temper! mild, and firm,
 Who wept the *Brother* while the *Tyrant* bled, 475
 And, equal to the best, the *** THEBAN PAIR,
 Whose virtues, in *heroic Concord* join'd,
 Their country rais'd to freedom, empire, fame.
 He too, with whom *Athenian* honour sunk,
 And left a mass of sordid lees behind, 480
 PHOCION the *Good*; in public life severe,
 To virtue still inexorably firm;
 But when, beneath his low illustrious roof,

* LÉONIDAS.

** THEMISTOCLES.

*** PELOPIDAS and EPAMINONDAS.

Sweet peace and happy wisdom smooth'd his brow,
 Not friendship softer was, nor love more kind. 485
 And he, the *last* of old LYCURGUS' sons,
 The generous victim to that vain attempt,
 To *save a rotten State*, AGIS, who saw
 Even SPARTA'S self to servile avarice sunk.
 The two *Achaian* heroes close the train. 490
 ARATUS, who a while relum'd the soul
 Of fondly lingering liberty in GREECE:
 And he her darling as her latest hope,
 The *gallant* PHILOPOEMEN; who to arms
 Turn'd the luxurious pomp he could not cure; 495
 Or toiling in his farm, a simple swain;
 Or, bold and skilful, thundering in the field.

OF rougher front, a mighty people come!
 A race of heroes! in those virtuous times
 Which knew no stain, save that with partial flame 500
 Their *dearest* country they *too fondly* lov'd:
 Her, *better founder* first, the light of ROME,
 NUMA, who soften'd her rapacious sons:
 SERVIUS the *King*, who laid the solid base
 On which o'er earth the *vast republic* spread. 505
 Then the great consuls venerable rise.
 The * PUBLIC FATHER who the *Private* quell'd,
 As on the dread tribunal sternly sad.
 He, whom his thankless country *could not* lose,
 CAMILLUS, only vengeful to her foes. 510
 FABRICIUS, scorner of all-conquering gold;

* MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS.

And CINCINNATUS, awful from the plough.
 Thy * WILLING VICTIM, *Carthage*, bursting loose
 From all that pleading Nature could oppose,
 From a whole city's tears, by rigid faith 515
 Imperious call'd, and honour'd dire command.
 SCIPIO, the *gentle chief*, humanely brave,
 Who soon the race of spotless glory ran,
 And, warm in youth, to the *Poetic shade*
 With *Friendship* and *Philosophy* retir'd. 520
 TULLY, whose powerful eloquence a while
 Restrain'd the *rapid* fate of rushing ROME,
 Unconquer'd CATO, virtuous in *extreme*.
 And thou, unhappy BRUTUS, kind of heart,
 Whose steady arm, by awful virtue urg'd, 525
 Lifted the *Roman steel* against thy *Friend*.
 Thousands besides the tribute of a verse
 Demand; but who can count the stars of heaven;
 Who sing their influence on this lower world?

BEHOLD, who yonder comes! in sober state, 530
 Fair, mild, and strong, as is a vernal sun:
 'Tis *Phæbus*' self, or else the *Mantuan Swain*!
 Great HOMER too appears, of daring wing,
 Parent of song! and *equal* by his side,
 The BRITISH MUSE; join'd hand in hand they walk,
 Darkling, full up the middle steep to fame. 536
 Nor absent are those shades, whose skilful touch
 Pathetic drew th' impassion'd heart, and charm'd
 Transported *Athens* with the MORAL SCENE:

* REGULUS.

Nor those who, tuneful, wak'd th' enchanting **LYRE**.

FIRST of your kind! society divine! 541
 Still visit thus my nights, for you reserv'd,
 And mount my soaring soul to thoughts like yours.
Silence, thou lonely power! the door be thine;
 See on the hallowed hour that none intrude, 545
 Save a few chosen friends, who sometimes deign
 To bless my humble roof, with sense refin'd,
 Learning digested well, exalted faith,
 Unstudy'd wit, and humour ever gay.
 Or from the Muses' hill will **POPE** descend, 550
 To raise the sacred hour, to bid it smile,
 And with the social spirit warm the heart:
 For tho' not sweeter his own **HOMER** sings,
 Yet is his life the more endearing song.

WHERE art thou, **HAMMOND**? thou the darling
 pride,
 The friend and lover of the tuneful throng! 556
 Ah why, dear youth, in all the blooming prime
 Of vernal genius, where disclosing fast
 Each active worth, each manly virtue lay,
 Why wert thou ravish'd from our hope so soon? 560
 What now avails that noble thirst of fame,
 Which stung thy fervent breast? that treasur'd store
 Of knowledge, early gain'd? that eager zeal
 To serve thy country, glowing in the band
 Of **YOUTHFUL PATRIOTS**, who sustain her name?
 What now, alas! that life-diffusing charm 566

Of sprightly wit? that rapture for the Muse,
That heart of friendship, and that soul of joy,
Which bade with softest light thy virtues smile?
Ah! only shew'd, to check our fond pursuits, 570
And teach our humbled hopes that life is vain!

THUS in some deep retirement would I pass
The winter-glooms, with friends of pliant soul,
Or blithe, or solemn, as the theme inspir'd:
With them would search, if Nature's boundless frame
Was call'd, late-rising from the void of night, 576
Or sprung *eternal* from th' ETERNAL MIND;
Its life, its laws, its progress, and its end.
Hence larger prospects of the beauteous whole
Would, gradual, open on our opening minds; 580
And each diffusive harmony unite
In full perfection, to th' astonish'd eye.
Then would we try to scan the *moral World*,
Which, tho' to us it seems embroil'd, moves on
In higher order; fitted, and impell'd, 585
By WISDOM'S finest hand, and issuing all
In *general Good*. The sage historic Muse
Should next conduct us thro' the deeps of time;
Shew us how empire grew, declin'd, and fell,
In scatter'd states; what makes the nations smile, 590
Improves their soil, and gives them double suns;
And why they pine beneath the brightest skies,
In Nature's richest lap. As thus we talk'd,
Our hearts would burn within us, would inhale
That portion of divinity, that ray 595

Of purest heaven, which lights the public soul
 Of patriots, and of heroes. But if doom'd,
 In powerless humble fortune, to repress
 These ardent risings of the kindling soul;
 Then, even superior to ambition, we 600
 Would learn the private virtues; how to glide
 Thro' shades and plains, along the smoothest stream
 Of rural life: or snatch'd away by hope,
 Thro' the dim spaces of futurity,
 With earnest eye anticipate those scenes 605
 Of happiness, and wonder; where the mind,
 In endless growth and infinite ascent,
 Rises from state to state, and world to world.
 But when with these the serious thought is foil'd,
 We, shifting for relief, would play the shapes 610
 Of frolic fancy; and incessant form
 Those rapid pictures, that assembled train
 Of fleet ideas, never join'd before,
 Whence lively *Wit* excites to gay surprize;
 Or folly-painting *Humour*, grave himself, 615
 Calls Laughter forth, deep-shaking every nerve.

MEAN-TIME the village rouses up the fire;
 While well attested, and as well believ'd,
 Heard solemn, goes the goblin-story round;
 Till superstitious horror creeps o'er all. 620
 Or, frequent in the sounding hall, they wake
 The rural gambol. Rustic mirth goes round;
 The simple joke that takes the shepherd's heart,
 Easily pleas'd; the long loud laugh, sincere;

The kiss, snatch'd hasty from the side-long maid, 625
On purpose guardless, or pretending sleep:
The leap, the flap, the haul; and, shook to notes
Of native music, the respondent dance.
Thus jocund fleets with them the winter-night.

THE city swarms intense. The public haunt, 630
Full of each theme, and warm with mixt discourse,
Hums indistinct. The sons of riot flow
Down the loose stream of false enchanted joy,
To swift destruction. On the rankled soul
The gaming fury falls; and in one gulph 635
Of total ruin, honour, virtue, peace,
Friends, families, and fortune, headlong sink.
Up-springs the dance along the lighted dome,
Mix'd, and evolv'd, a thousand sprightly ways.
The glittering court effuses every pomp; 640
The circle deepens: beam'd from gaudy robes,
Tapers, and sparkling gems, and radiant eyes,
A soft effulgence o'er the palace waves:
While, a gay insect in his summer-shine,
The fop, light-fluttering, spreads his mealy wings. 645

DREAD o'er the scene, the ghost of HAMLET stalks;
OTHELLO rages; poor MONIMIA mourns;
And BELVIDERA pours her soul in love.
Terror alarms the breast; the comely tear
Steals o'er the cheek: or else the COMIC MUSE 650
Holds to the world a picture of itself,
And raises fly the fair impartial laugh.

Sometimes she lifts her strain, and paints the scenes
Of beauteous life; whate'er can deck mankind,
Or charm the heart, ingenuous* BEVIL shew'd. 655

O THOU, whose wisdom, solid yet refin'd,
Whose patriot virtues, and consummate skill
To touch the finer springs that move the world,
Join'd to whate'er the *Graces* can bestow,
And all *Apollo's* animating fire, 660
Give thee, with pleasing dignity, to shine
At once the guardian, ornament, and joy,
Of polish'd life; permit the *Rural Muse*,
O CHESTERFIELD, to grace with thee her song!
Ere to the shades again she humbly flies, 665
Indulge her fond ambition, in thy train,
(For every *Muse* has in thy train a place)
To mark thy various full-accomplish'd mind:
To mark that spirit, which, with *British* scorn,
Rejects th' allurements of corrupted power; 670
That elegant politeness, which excels,
Even in the judgment of presumptuous *France*,
The boasted manners of her shining court;
That wit, the vivid energy of sense,
The truth of Nature, which, with *Attic* point, 675
And kind well-temper'd satire, smoothly keen,
Steals thro' the soul, and without pain corrects.
Or, rising thence with yet a brighter flame,
Q. let me hail thee on some glorious day,

* A character in the CONSCIOUS LOVERS, written by Sir
RICHARD STEELE,

When to the listening senate, ardent, croud 680
 BRITANNIA'S sons to hear her pleaded cause.
 Then drest by thee, more amiably fair,
 Truth the soft robe of mild persuasion wears:
 Thou to assenting reason giv'st again
 Her own enlightened thoughts; call'd from the heart,
 Th' obedient passions on thy voice attend; 686
 And even reluctant party feels a while
 Thy gracious power: as thro' the varied maze
 Of eloquence, now smooth, now quick, now strong,
 Profound and clear, you roll the copious flood. 690

To thy lov'd haunt return, my happy Muse:
 For now, behold, the joyous winter-days,
 Frosty, succeed; and thro' the blue serene,
 For sight too fine, th' ethereal nitre flies;
 Killing infectious damps, and the spent air 695
 Storing afresh with elemental life.
 Close crouds the shining atmosphere; and binds
 Our strengthened bodies in its cold embrace,
 Constringent; feeds, and animates our blood;
 Refines our spirits, thro' the new-strung nerves, 700
 In swifter fallies darting to the brain;
 Where sits the soul, intense, collected, cool,
 Bright as the skies, and as the season keen.
 All nature feels the renovating force
 Of Winter, only to the thoughtless eye 705
 In ruin seen. The frost-concocted glebe
 Draws in abundant vegetable soul,
 And gathers vigour for the coming year.

A stronger glow sits on the lively cheek
 Of ruddy fire: and luculent along 710
 The purer rivers flow; their fullen deeps,
 Transparent, open to the shepherd's gaze,
 And murmur hoarser at the fixing frost.

WHAT art thou, frost? and whence are thy keen
 stores
 Deriv'd, thou secret all-invading power, 715
 Whom even th' illusive fluid cannot fly?
 It not thy potent energy, unseen,
 Myriads of little salts, or hook'd, or shap'd
 Like double wedges, and diffus'd immense
 Thro' water, earth, and ether? Hence at eve, 720
 Steam'd eager from the red horizon round,
 With the fierce rage of Winter deep suffus'd,
 An icy gale, oft shifting, o'er the pool
 Breathes a blue film, and in its mid career
 Arrests the bickering stream. The loosened ice, 725
 Let down the flood, and half dissolv'd by day,
 Rustles no more; but to the sedge bank
 Fast grows, or gathers round the pointed stone,
 A crystal pavement, by the breath of heaven
 Cemented firm; till, seiz'd from shore to shore, 730
 The whole imprison'd river growls below.
 Loud rings the frozen earth, and hard reflects
 A double noise; while, at his evening watch,
 The village dog deters the nightly thief;
 The heifer lows; the distant water-fall 735
 Swells in the breeze; and, with the hasty tread

Of traveller, the hollow-sounding plain
Shakes from afar. The full ethereal round,
Infinite worlds disclosing to the view,
Shines out intensely keen; and, all one cope 740
Of starry glitter, glows from pole to pole.
From pole to pole the rigid influence falls,
Thro' the still night, incessant, heavy, strong,
And seizes Nature fast. It freezes on;
Till morn, late rising o'er the drooping world, 745
Lifts her pale eye unjoyous. Then appears
The various labour of the silent night:
Prone from the dripping eave, and dumb cascade,
Whose idle torrents only seem to roar,
The pendant icicle; the frost-work fair, 750
Where transient hues, and fancy'd figures rise;
Wide-spouted o'er the hill, the frozen brook,
A livid tract, cold gleaming on the morn;
The forest bent beneath the plummy wave;
And by the frost refin'd the whiter snow, 755
Incrusted hard, and sounding to the tread
Of early shepherd, as he pensive seeks
His pining flock, or from the mountain top,
Pleas'd with the slippery surface, swift descends.

On blithsome frolics bent, the youthful swains, 760
While every work of Man is laid at rest,
Fond o'er the river crowd, in various sport
And revelry dissolv'd; where mixing glad,
Happiest of all the train! the raptur'd boy
Lashes the whirling top. Or, where the Rhine 765

Branch'd out in many a long canal extends,
 From every province swarming, void of care,
Batavia rushes forth; and as they sweep,
 On sounding skates, a thousand different ways,
 In circling poise, swift as the winds, along, 770
 The *then* gay land is maddened all to joy.
 Nor less the northern courts, wide o'er the snow,
 Pour a new pomp. Eager, on rapid sleds,
 Their vigorous youth in bold contention wheel
 The long-resounding course. Mean-time, to raise 775
 'The manly strife, with highly blooming charms,
 Flush'd by the season, *Scandinavia's* dames,
 Or *Russia's* buxom daughters glow around.

PURE, quick, and sportful, is the wholesome
day;

But soon claps'd. The horizontal sun, 780
 Broad o'er the south, hangs at his utmost noon:
 And, ineffectual, strikes the gelid cliff:
 His azure gloss the mountain still maintains,
 Nor feels the feeble touch. Perhaps the vale
 Relents a while to the reflected ray; 785
 Or from the forest falls the cluster'd snow,
 Myriads of gems, that in the waving gleam
 Gay-twinkle as they scatter. Thick around
 Thunders the sport of those, who with the gun,
 And dog impatient bounding at the shot, 790
 Worse than the season, desolate the fields;
 And, adding to the ruins of the year,
 Distress the footed or the feathered game.

BUT what is this? Our infant Winter sinks,
 Diverted of his grandeur, should our eye 795
 Astonish'd shoot into the *Frigid Zone*;
 Where, for relentless months, continual night
 Holds o'er the glittering waste her starry reign.

THERE, thro' the prison of unbounded wilds,
 Barr'd by the hand of Nature from escape, 800
 Wide-roams the *Russian* exile. Nought around
 Strikes his sad eye, but desarts lost in snow;
 And heavy-loaded groves; and solid floods,
 That stretch, athwart the solitary vast,
 Their icy horrors to the frozen main; 805
 And cheerless towns far-distant, never blest'd,
 Save when its annual course the caravan
 Bends to the golden coast of rich * *Cathay*,
 With news of human kind. Yet there life glows;
 Yet cherish'd there, beneath the shining waste, 810
 The furry nations harbour: tipt with jet,
 Fair ermines, spotless as the snows they press;
 Sables, of glossy black; and dark embrown'd,
 Or beauteous freakt with many a mingled hue,
 Thousands besides, the costly pride of courts. 815
 There, warm together press'd, the trooping deer
 Sleep on the new-fallen snows; and, scarce his head
 Rais'd o'er the heapy wreath, the branching elk
 Lies slumbering sullen in the white abyfs.
 The ruthless hunter wants nor dogs nor toils, 820
 Nor with the dread of sounding bows he drives

* The old name for *China*.

The fearful flying race; with ponderous clubs,
 As weak against the mountain-heaps they push
 Their beating breast in vain, and piteous bray,
 He lays them quivering on th' ensanguin'd snows, 825
 And with loud shouts rejoicing bears them home.
 'There thro' the piny forest half absorpt,
 Rough tenant of these shades, the shapeless bear,
 With dangling ice all horrid, stalks forlorn;
 Slow-pac'd, and sourer as the storms increase, 830
 He makes his bed beneath th' inclement drift,
 And, with stern patience, scorning weak complaint,
 Hardens his heart against assailing want.

WIDE o'er the spacious regions of the north,
 That see *Boötes* urge his tardy wain, 835
 A boisterous race, by frosty * *Caurus* pierc'd,
 Who little pleasure know and fear no pain,
 Prolific swarm. They once relum'd the flame
 Of lost mankind in polish'd slavery funk,
 Drove martial ** horde on horde, with dreadful sweep
 Resistless rushing o'er th' enfeebled south, 841
 And gave the vanquish'd world another form.
 Not such the sons of *Lapland*: wisely they
 Despise th' insensate barbarous trade of war;
 They ask no more than simple Nature gives, 845
 They love their mountains and enjoy their storms.
 No false desires, no pride-created wants,
 Disturb the peaceful current of their time;

* The North-West Wind.

** The wandering *Scythian-Clans*.

And thro' the restless ever tortur'd maze
Of pleasure, or ambition, bid it rage. 850
Their rein-deer form their riches. These their tents,
Their robes, their beds, and all their homely wealth
Supply, their wholesome fare, and cheerful cups.
Obsequious at their call, the docile tribe
Yield to the sled their necks, and whirl them swift 855
O'er hill and dale, heap'd into one expanse
Of marbled snow, as far as eye can sweep
With a blue crust of ice unbounded glaz'd.
By dancing meteors then, that ceaseless shake
A waving blaze refracted o'er the heavens, 860
And vivid moons, and stars that keener play
With doubled lustre from the glossy waste,
Even in the depth of *Polar Night*, they find
A wondrous day: enough to light the chase,
Or guide their daring steps to *Finland-fairs*. 865
Wish'd Spring returns; and from the hazy south,
While dim Aurora slowly moves before,
The welcome sun, just verging up at first,
By small degrees extends the swelling curve!
Till seen at last for gay rejoicing months, 870
Still round and round, his spiral course he winds,
And as he nearly dips his flaming orb,
Wheels up again, and reascends the sky.
In that glad season, from the lakes and floods,
Where pute * *Niemi's* fairy mountains rise, 875

* *M. de Maupertuis*, in his book on *the Figures of the Earth*, after having described the beautiful Lake and Mountain of *Niemi* in *Lapland*, says—"From this height we had opportunity several

And fring'd with roses * *Tenglio* rolls his stream,
 They draw the copious fry. With these, at eve,
 They cheerful-loaded to their tents repair;
 Where, all day long in useful cares employ'd,
 Their kind unblemish'd wives the fire prepare. 880
 Thrice happy race! by poverty secur'd
 From legal plunder and rapacious power:
 In whom fell interest never yet has sown
 The seeds of vice: whose spotless swains ne'er knew
 Injurious deed, nor, blasted by the breath 885
 Of faithless love, their blooming daughters woe.

STILL pressing on, beyond *Tornéa's* lake,
 And *Hecla* flaming thro' a waste of snow,
 And farthest *Greenland*, to the pole itself,
 Where, failing gradual, life at length goes out, 890
 The Muse expands her solitary flight;
 And, hovering o'er the wild stupendous scene,
 Beholds new seas beneath ** another sky.
 Thron'd in his palace of cerulean ice,
 Here WINTER holds his unrejoicing court; 895
 And thro' his airy hall the loud misrule

*"times to see those vapours rise from the Lake which the people of
 "the country call Haltios, and which they deem to be the guardian
 "Spirits of the Mountains. We had been frighted with stories of
 "Bears that haunted this place, but saw none. It seem'd rather
 "a place of resort for Fairies and Genii, than Bears."*

* The same Author observes — *"I was surpriz'd to see upon
 "the banks of this river (the Tenglio) Roses of as lively a red as
 "any that are in our gardens."*

** The other Hemisphere,

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Of driving tempest is for ever heard :
Here the grim tyrant meditates his wrath ;
Here arms his winds with all-subduing frost ;
Moulds his fierce hail, and treasures up his snows, 900
With which he now oppresses half the globe.

THENCE winding eastward to the *Tartar's*
coast,
She sweeps the howling margin of the main ;
Where undissolving, from the first of time,
Snows swell on snows amazing to the sky ; 905
And icy mountains high on mountains pil'd,
Seem to the shivering sailor from afar,
Shapeless and white, an atmosphere of clouds.
Projected huge, and horrid, o'er the surge,
Alps frown on Alps ; or rushing hideous down, 910
As if old Chaos was again return'd,
Wide-rend the deep, and shake the solid pole.
Ocean itself no longer can resist
The binding fary ; but, in all its rage
Of tempest taken by the boundless frost, 915
Is many a fathom to the bottom chain'd,
And bid to roar no more : a bleak expanse,
Shagg'd o'er with wavy rocks, cheerless, and void
Of every life, that from the dreary months
Flies conscious southward. Miserable they ! 920
Who, here entangled in the gathering ice,
Take their last look of the descending sun ;
While, full of death, and fierce with tenfold frost,
The long long night, incumbent o'er their heads,

Falls horrible. Such was the * BRITON'S fate 925
As with *first* prow, (what have not BRITONS
dar'd!)

He for the passage fought, attempted since
So much in vain, and seeming to be shut
By jealous Nature with eternal bars.

In these fell regions, in *Arzina* caught
And to the stony deep his idle ship
Immediate seal'd, he with his hapless crew,
Each full exerted at his several task,
Froze into statues; to the cordage glued
The sailor, and the pilot to the helm.

HARD by these shores, where scarce his freezing
stream
Rolls the wild *Oby*, live the last of Men;
And half enlivened by the distant sun,
That rears and ripens Man, as well as plants,
Here human Nature wears its rudest form. 940
Deep from the piercing season sunk in caves,
Here by dull fires, and with unjoyous cheer,
They waste the tedious gloom. Immers'd in furs,
Doze the gross race. Nor sprightly jest, nor song,
Nor tenderness they know; nor aught of life, 945
Beyond the kindred bears that stalk without.
Till morn at length, her roses dropping all,
Sheds a long twilight brightening o'er their fields,
And calls the quivered savage to the chace.

* Sir HUGH WILLOUGHBY, sent by QUEEN ELIZABETH
to discover the North-East Passage.

WHAT cannot active government perform, 950
New-moulding Man? , Wide-stretching from these
shores,

A people savage from remotest time,
A huge neglected empire, ONE VAST MIND,
By HEAVEN inspir'd, from Gothic darkness call'd.
Immortal PETER! first of monarchs! He

His stubborn country tam'd, her rocks, her fens,
Her floods, her seas, her ill submitting sons;
And while the fierce *Barbarian* he subdu'd,
To more exalted soul he rais'd the *Man*.

Ye shades of ancient heroes, ye who toil'd 960

Thro' long successive ages to build up

A labouring plan of state, behold at once

The wonder done! behold the matchless prince!

Who left his native throne, where reign'd till then

A mighty shadow of unreal power; 965

Who greatly spurn'd the slothful pomp of courts ;

And roaming every land, in every port

His scepter laid aside, with glorious hand

Unwearied plying the mechanic tool,

Gather'd the seeds of trade, of useful arts, 970.

Of civil wisdom, and of martial skill.

Charg'd with the stores of *Europe* home he goes!

Then cities rise amid the illumin'd waste;

O'er joyless desarts smiles the rural reign;

Far-distant float to float is social join'd; 975

Th' astonish'd *Euxine* hears the *Baltick* roar;

Proud navies ride on seas that never foam'd

With daring keel before; and armies stretch

Beneath the shelter of an icy isle,
 While night o'erwhelms the sea, and horror looks
 More horrible. Can human force endure
 Th' assembled mischiefs that besiege them round?
 Heart-gnawing hunger, fainting weariness, 1010
 The roar of winds and waves, the crush of ice,
 Now ceasing, now renew'd with louder rage,
 And in dire echoes bellowing round the main.
 More to embroil the deep, Leviathan
 And his unweildy train, in dreadful sport, 1015
 Tempest the loosened brine, while thro' the gloom,
 Far, from the bleak inhospitable shore,
 Loading the winds, is heard the hungry howl
 Of famish'd monsters, there awaiting wrecks.
 Yet PROVIDENCE, that ever-waking eye, 1020
 Look down with pity on the feeble toil
 Of mortals lost to hope, and lights them safe,
 Thro' all this dreary labyrinth of fate.

'Tis done! dread WINTER spreads his latest
 glooms,
 And reigns tremendous o'er the conquer'd year. 1025
 How dead the vegetable kingdom lies!
 How dumb the tuneful! Horror wide extends
 His desolate domain. Behold, fond Man!
 See here thy pictur'd life; pass some few years,
 Thy flowering Spring, thy Summer's ardent strength,
 Thy sober Autumn fading into age, 1031
 And pale concluding Winter comes at last,
 And shuts the scene. Ah! whither now are fled,

Imbittered all our blifs. Ye good diftrest!
Ye noble few! who here unbending ftand
Beneath life's preffure, yet bear up a while 1065
And what your bounded view, which only faw
A little part, deem'd Evil is no more:
The ftorms of WINTER TIME will quickly pafs,
And one unbounded SPRING encircle all.

A
H Y M N.

THESE, as they change, ALMIGHTY FATHER,
these,
Are but the *varied* God. The rolling year
Is full of thee. Forth in the pleasing Spring
THY beauty walks, THY tenderness and love.
Wide flush the fields; the softening air is balm; 5
Echo the mountains round; the forest smiles;
And every sense, and every heart is joy.
Then comes THY glory in the Summer-months,
With light and heat refulgent. Then THY sun
Shoots full perfection thro' the swelling year; 10
And oft THY voice in dreadful thunder speaks;
And oft at dawn, deep noon, or falling eve,
By brooks and groves, in hollow whispering gales.
THY bounty shines in Autumn unconfin'd,
And spreads a common feast for all that lives. 15
In Winter awful THOU! with clouds and storms
Around THEE thrown, tempest o'er tempest roll'd,
Majestic darkness! on the whirlwind's wing,
Riding sublime, THOU bidst the world adore,
And humblest Nature with THY northern blast. 20

MYSTERIOUS round! what skill, what force divine,

Deep felt, in these appear! a simple train,
 Yet so delightful mix'd, with such kind art,
 Such beauty and beneficence combin'd;
 Shade, unperceiv'd, so softening into shade; 25
 And all so forming an harmonious whole;
 That, as they still succeed, they ravish still,
 But wandering oft, with brute unconscious gaze,
 Man marks not THEE, marks not the mighty hand,
 That, ever-busy, wheels the silent spheres; 30
 Works in the secret deep; shoots, steaming, thence
 The fair profusion that o'erspreads the Spring:
 Flings from the sun direct the flaming day;
 Feeds every creature; hurls the tempest forth;
 And, as on earth this grateful change revolves, 35
 With transport touches all the springs of life.

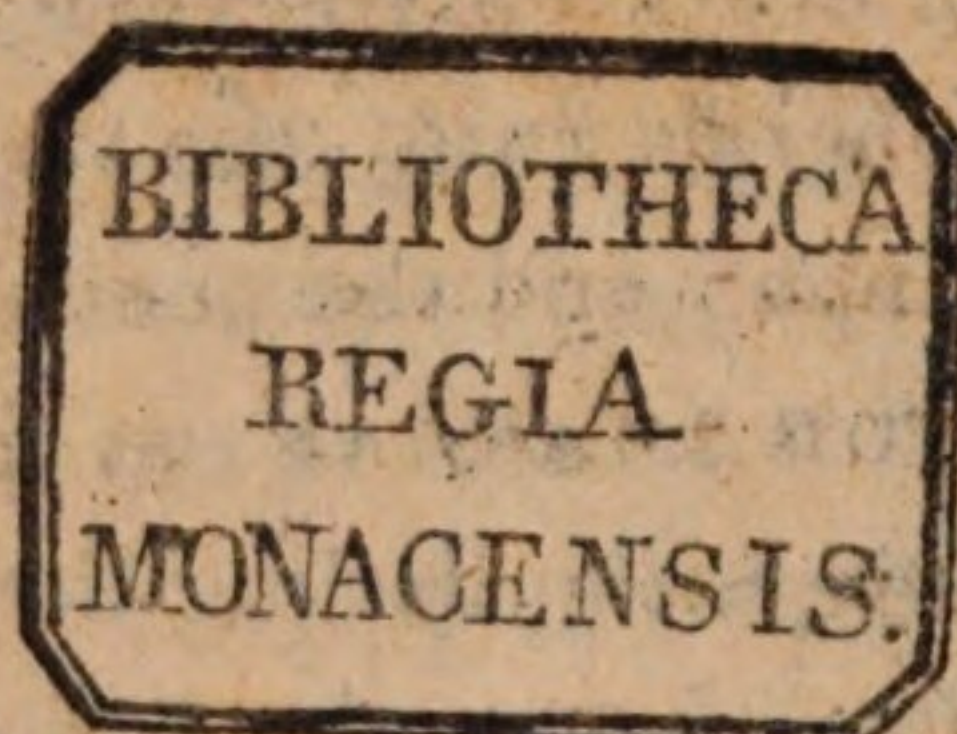
NATURE, attend! join every living soul,
 Beneath the spacious temple of the sky,
 In adoration join; and, ardent, raise
 One general song! To HIM, ye vocal gales, 40
 Breathe soft, whose SPIRIT in your freshness breathes:
 Oh talk of HIM in solitary glooms!
 Where, o'er the rock, scarcely waving pine
 Fills the brown shade with a religious awe.
 And ye, whose bolder note is heard afar, 45
 Who shake th' astonish'd world, lift high to heaven
 Th' impetuous song, and say from whom your rage,
 His praise, ye brooks, attune, ye trembling rills;
 And let me catch it as I muse along.
 Ye headlong torrents, rapid, and profound; 50

Ye softer floods, that lead the humid maze
 Along the vale; and thou, majestic main,
 A secret world of wonders in thyself,
 Sound HIS stupendous praise; whose greater voice
 Or bids you roar, or bids your roarings fall. 55
 Soft-roll your incense, herbs, and fruits, and flowers,
 In mingled clouds to HIM; whose sun exalts,
 Whose breath perfumes you, and whose pencil paints.
 Ye forests bend, ye harvests wave, to HIM;
 Breathe your still song into the reaper's heart, 60
 As home he goes beneath the joyous moon.
 Ye that keep watch in heaven, as earth asleep
 Unconscious lies, effuse your mildest beams,
 Ye constellations, while your angels strike,
 Amid the spangled sky, the silver lyre. 65
 Great source of day! best image here below
 Of thy Creator, ever pouring wide,
 From world to world, the vital ocean round,
 On Nature write with every beam HIS praise.
 The thunder rolls: be hush'd the prostrate world; 70
 While cloud to cloud returns the solemn hymn.
 Bleat out afresh, ye hills: ye mossy rocks,
 Retain the sound: the broad responsive lowe,
 Ye valleys, raise; for the GREAT SHEPHERD reigns;
 And his *unsuffering* kingdom yet will come. 75
 Ye woodlands all, awake: a boundless song
 Burst from the groves! and when the restless day,
 Expiring, lays the warbling world asleep,
 Sweetest of birds! sweet Philomela, charm
 The listening shades, and teach the night HIS praise. 80

Ye chief, for whom the whole creation smiles,
 At once the head, the heart, and tongue of all,
 Crown the great hymn! in swarming cities vast,
 Assembled men, to the deep organ join
 The long-resounding voice, oft-breaking clear, 85
 At solemn pauses, through the swelling base;
 And, as each mingling flame increases each,
 In one united ardour rise to heaven.
 Or if you rather chuse the rural shade,
 And find a fane in every sacred grove; 90
 There let the shepherd's flute, the virgin's lay,
 The prompting seraph, and the poet's lyre,
 Still sing the GOD OF SEASONS, as they roll.
 For me, when I forget the darling theme,
 Whether the blossom blows. the Summer ray 95
 Ruffles the plain, *inspiring* Autumn gleams;
 Or Winter rises in the blackening east;
 Be my tongue mute, may fancy paint no more,
 And, dead to joy, forget my heart to beat!

SHOULD fate command me to the farthest verge 100
 Of the green earth, to distant barbarous climes,
 Rivers unknown to song; where first the sun
 Gilds *Indian* mountains, or his setting beam
 Flames on th' *Atlantic* isles; 'tis nought to me:
 Since GOD is ever present, ever felt, 105
 In the void waste as in the city full;
 And where HE vital breathes there must be joy.
 When even at last the solemn hour shall come,
 And wing my mystic flight to future worlds,

I cheerful will obey; there, with new powers, 110
Will rising wonders sing: I cannot go
Where UNIVERSAL LOVE not smiles around,
Sustaining all you orbs and all their sons;
From *seeming Evil* still educating *Good*,
And *Better* thence again, and *Better* still, 115
In infinite progression. But I lose
Myself in HIM, in LIGHT INEFFABLE!
Come then, expressive silence, muse HIS praise.



THE END.

Thomson, James,

The seasons

Leipzig 1781

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